Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 291 | TUESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢





OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Where do you intend to buy your holiday presents this year?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Rising Economy

Except for job creation, the economy is starting to fire on almost all cylinders.

BUSINESS...Page 13



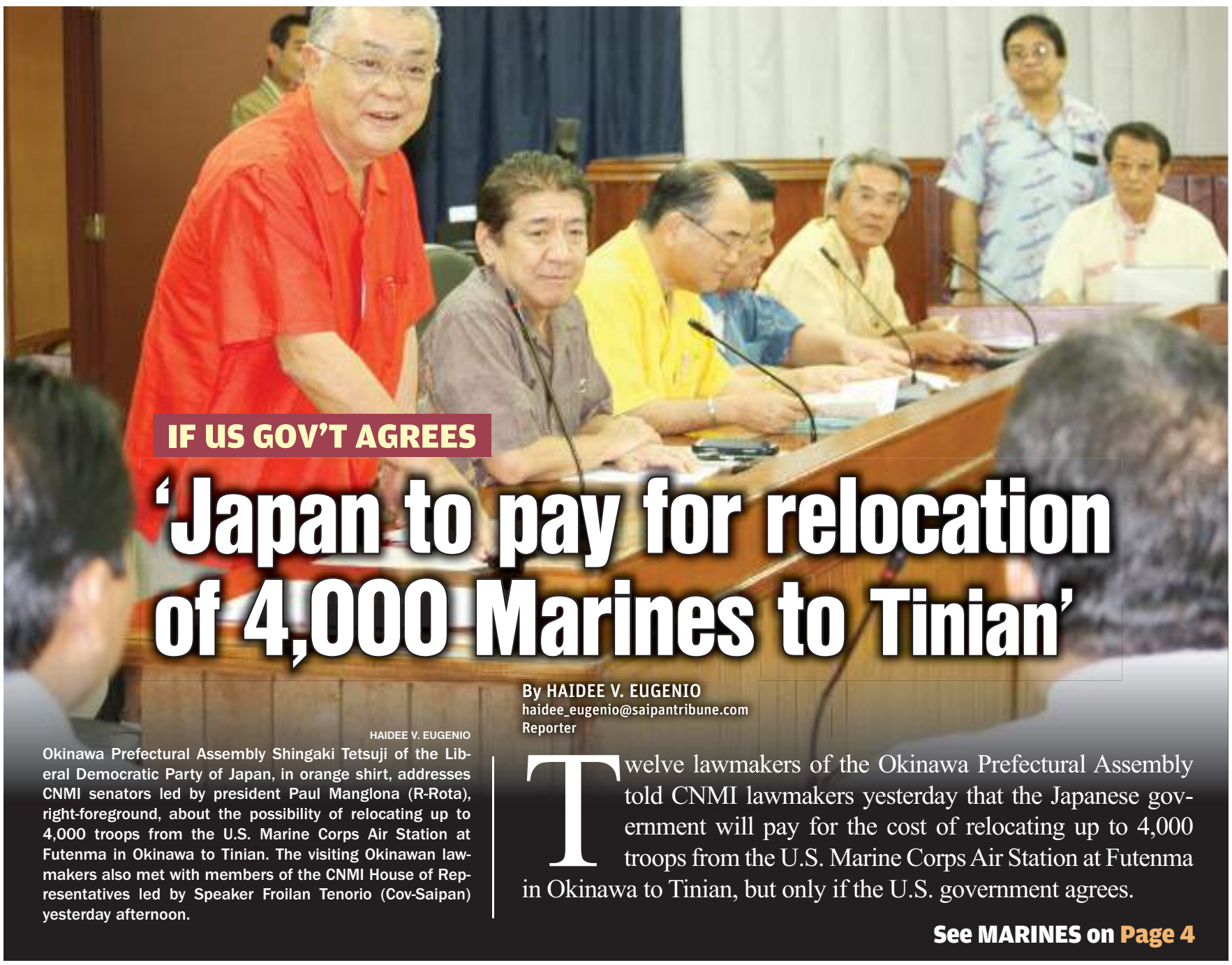
Solid Choice

Hyundai's Santa Fe is refreshed and given new power trains for 2010.

OVERDRIVE...Page 17

DPH can only send patients to Guam hospitals. **PAGE 2**

Froilan cancels House session today, will remain speaker. **PAGE 3**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Shingaki Tetsuji of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, in orange shirt, addresses CNMI senators led by president Paul Manglona (R-Rota), right-foreground, about the possibility of relocating up to 4,000 troops from the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma in Okinawa to Tinian. The visiting Okinawan lawmakers also met with members of the CNMI House of Representatives led by Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) yesterday afternoon.

IF US GOV'T AGREES

'Japan to pay for relocation of 4,000 Marines to Tinian'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
Reporter

Twelve lawmakers of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly told CNMI lawmakers yesterday that the Japanese government will pay for the cost of relocating up to 4,000 troops from the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma in Okinawa to Tinian, but only if the U.S. government agrees.

See MARINES on Page 4

Inos speaks out on differences with Fitial

» 'It's unfortunate governor used my daughter to explain Ogumoro issue'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he respects Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's office and still considers him a friend despite their differences on hiring policies, awarding of government contracts including the $392,406 no-bid, sole-source contract to Michael Ada, and the reinstatement of Ambrosio Ogumoro as range master.

Fitial and Inos have not been talking to each other since July.

That's when Fitial first reinstated Ogumoro after he was terminated while the governor was gone.

Inos said he was "surprised" and it was "unfortunate" that Fitial used the resignation of



See INOS on Page 4

CUC needs $4.2M to overhaul five engines

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs $4.25 million to complete the overhaul of five engines, according to its executive director Abe Utu Malae.

Malae earlier disclosed that power generation on island is on course to crash because of the stalled overhaul and Saipan could

See CUC on Page 4



Local

DPH can only send patients to Guam hospitals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the moment, patients with serious medical conditions are the only ones being allowed to be flown to off-island medical facilities for treatment, according to Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

He confirmed Friday that the CNMI government has yet to fully pay travel agencies for the services they rendered for medical referral patients in October.

The government owes three travel agencies—Wings Travel, Pacific Sky, and World Tour and Travel—a total of $180,000 as of October. This prompted the travel agencies to temporarily stop the processing of medical referral patients until the full obligation is collected.

"We're still sending patients off-island …but these are the ill patients only. What we're not processing at present [under the medical referral program] are the follow-up patients," Villagomez said.

It was learned that of the three vendors, only World Tour and Travel has resumed accepting medical referral patients but only for flights to neighboring Guam.

Villagomez earlier said that travel ban has already affected five to 10 medical referral cases in the first week—all for follow-up checkups. The suspension of medical referral patients started in October.

Saipan Tribune learned that the $180,000 debt reflects over a month's delay of payment for each vendor.

Wings Travel manager Ed Camacho confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, although the company has already collected a "significant amount" from the government two weeks ago, it was not enough to warrant the lifting of the suspension.

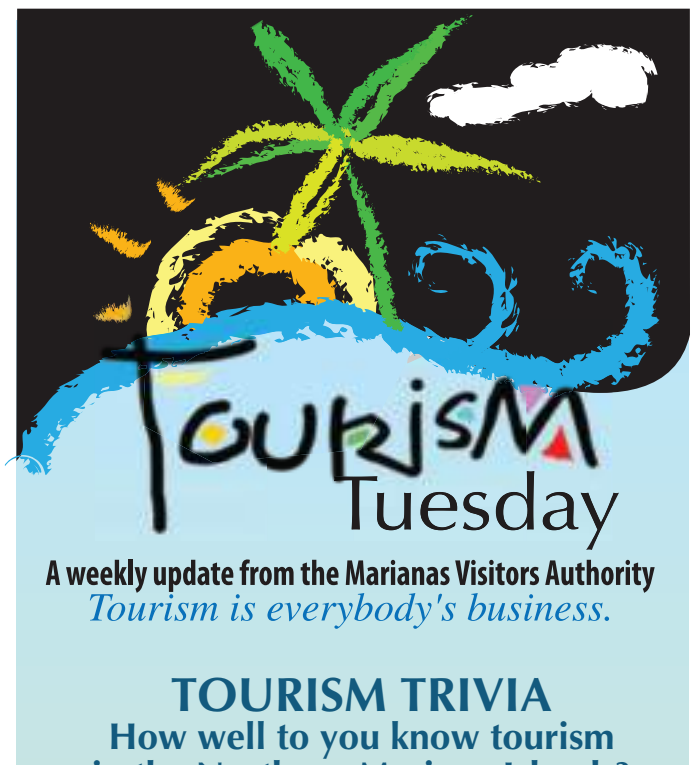
The government owes Wings Travel about $70,000. Camacho is hoping the government will make good on its promise to make the full payment within the week.

"Yes, we collected…but the company's decision is to wait until full amount is paid before we can process again the medical referral patients. But for now, it's still being suspended," Camacho said.

That means that, for the moment, medical referrals will only be for Guam, and referrals to the Philippines, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland remain suspended.

The Department of Public Health spent $16.3 million in referring medical cases to various medical facilities outside the Commonwealth in the last four fiscal years, ending in fiscal year 2009.





A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

TOURISM TRIVIA
How well to you know tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands?

Fill out this original form and drop it off to the **Marianas Visitors Authority** on Beach Rd., Oleai this week. One lucky winner with the correct answer will have their name printed in next week's **Tourism Tuesday**.



In October 2010, the Northern Mariana Islands received 8,681 visitors from Korea. This is an 80 percent increase over October 2009.

In Fiscal Year 2010, about what percentage of all visitors to the Northern Marianas were from **Korea**? Check one.

- ☐ About 35 percent?
- ☐ About 50 percent?
- ☐ About 70 percent?

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Dec. 10, 2010. One randomly selected winner will also receive a **Saipan-da** gift (prize must be claimed within 30 days). HINT: The answer was in a November 2010 edition of Tourism Tuesday.

Live the Hafa Adai and Tirow Way!
Be friendly to a visitor today!

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Froilan cancels House session today, will remain speaker

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) has decided not to step down as speaker anytime soon following a request yesterday from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial not to allow the Covenant Party to lose the House leadership.

Tenorio also cancelled yesterday the session set this afternoon, when Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) is supposed to make a motion to elect new officers that may pave the way for minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) to become speaker again.

Tenorio, in an interview, said he called off the session upon learning that two members of the majority will not be able to make it in today's session. The session has been reset for Dec. 13 at 10am.

Although the speaker did not name the two who will be absent, they were later identified as Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) because of a death in the family, and Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), who is sick.

Benavente, when asked for comment, said he would do the same—cancel the session—if he were the speaker and if he knew there will not be enough votes for him to retain his seat.

But Tenorio said even if there's a motion to elect new officers and he accepts the re-nomination, he will still have 11 votes. The House has 20 members.

Benavente said he is now counting a 10-10 tie, a change from last week's 11-9 in his favor.

"We need at least one more to have a change in leadership," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune*. He said he's not surprised that Tenorio changed his mind again.

Tenorio and members of the current leadership had a breakfast meeting with Fitial yesterday.


Tenorio

"What they told me, if I step down, then the Covenant will lose the leadership, and the minority will take over," he said in an interview shortly before 5pm.

Tenorio said while they lost Torres and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) to the minority, he expects to have Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) to vote for him should he accept a re-nomination when there's a motion for reorganization.

Both Cabrera and Joseph Palacios attended the breakfast meeting with Fitial.

The majority does not expect vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) to muster the majority votes as next speaker should Tenorio step down, and this is why the governor and the members of the majority want Tenorio to stay put.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who was earlier believed to be also eyeing the speaker's post, said yesterday he fully supports Benavente if there will be an election of new officers.

"This is to put to rest rumors about me vying for the speaker's position. I am supporting Diego," he said.

Despite agreeing to remain as speaker at this time, Tenorio said he told the governor he has concerns about the issue of having the Legislative Bureau director's post still filled by Glenna SP. Reyes, who he said has an appointment that expired in January.

"He [the governor] acknowledged that the attorney general does not want to intervene in this matter," Tenorio said, adding that he was advised to submit a certified question to the court or bring the matter to court. He said if this is the case, then the attorney general will have to represent him, but he said does not want to be represented by someone who does not even want to have anything to do with the issue.

Visiting senior judge from Washington holds bench trial in fisherman's lawsuit

A visiting senior judge from Washington presided over a bench trial that began yesterday in a lawsuit filed by a fisherman who was injured when a motorboat allegedly drove over him as he was spearfishing off Micro Beach in 2007.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen began the trial in Pedro P. Pinaula's lawsuit against the boat's operator, Banga Bandhu Baidya, and the boat owner, Seahorse Inc. Saipan.

Nielsen served as a chief judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. He received his senior judge status in 2003.

Pinaula's wife, Linda Cruz Pangelinan, also joined in the lawsuit to claim for loss of consortium.

The couple sued the defendants for negligence, reckless infliction of emotional distress, and negligent training/supervision. They demanded damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

On defendants motion, the court had earlier struck the claim for negligent training and supervision, and the demand for punitive damage.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, attorney Joseph Horey, counsel for the plaintiffs, was still examining one of their witnesses—William Weita, a fisherman.

Attorney Richard W. Pierce, is counsel for Seahorse Inc. and Baidya.

According to the complaint, on Aug. 25, 2007, Pinaula was swimming and fishing with a sling in the shallow waters off Micro Beach.

A Searhorse's motorboat operated by Baidya came rapidly toward Pinaula. To avoid being hit, he quickly submerged. However, the rope connecting him to his cooler used for collecting fish, was caught in the boat's propeller.

The rope was violently severed. The propeller also struck and cut the swimming fins on Pinaula's feet.

"As a consequence of this incident, plaintiff suffered both physical and emotional injury, including shaking, difficulty walking, persistent pain and numbness in his left arm and hand, interference with sleep, loss of strength, and mobility of his left arm and hand, and a chronic fear of boats and of the sea," the complaint alleged.

Pierce in the defendants' trial brief denied that pilot Baidya operated the ship in an unsafe manner.

Further, Pierce said, Pinaula did not use a recommended dive flag to mark his presence and he foolishly swam/dove in a boating channel through the reef. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Woman suffers multiple injuries due to domestic violence

» Tourist bus driver arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman sustained multiple injuries after her boyfriend allegedly repeatedly punched and kicked her during an argument over money at their apartment in As Lito Friday afternoon.

The victim, a Japanese national, was first taken to the Medical Associates of Pacific Clinic in Puerto Rico, and then to a shelter. Her lips, eyes, and left ear were swollen. The left eye had a cut too, according to a police report.

Harry Conrad Conley, 37, a Chuukese tourist bus driver, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at $500 cash and $4,500 unsecured bond.

Preliminary hearing is on Dec. 15, 2010, at 9am.

The couple work for the same company.

Detective Buddy S. Igitol stated in his report that a patrol officer had responded on Friday at 5:42pm to the Medical Associates of Pacific Clinic, where the victim had been taken.

Quoting the responding patrol officer, Igitol said the victim, who had several injuries in the face, refused to speak to any of the male police officers who later arrived.

The patrol officer learned through interviews that Conley and the victim were at their apartment in As Lito between 1pm to 2:30pm that day when an argument ensued after the victim learned that Conley had used up their money.

During their argument, Conley accused his girlfriend of having an affair with her employer, and began calling her names, ridiculing her, and yelling at her.

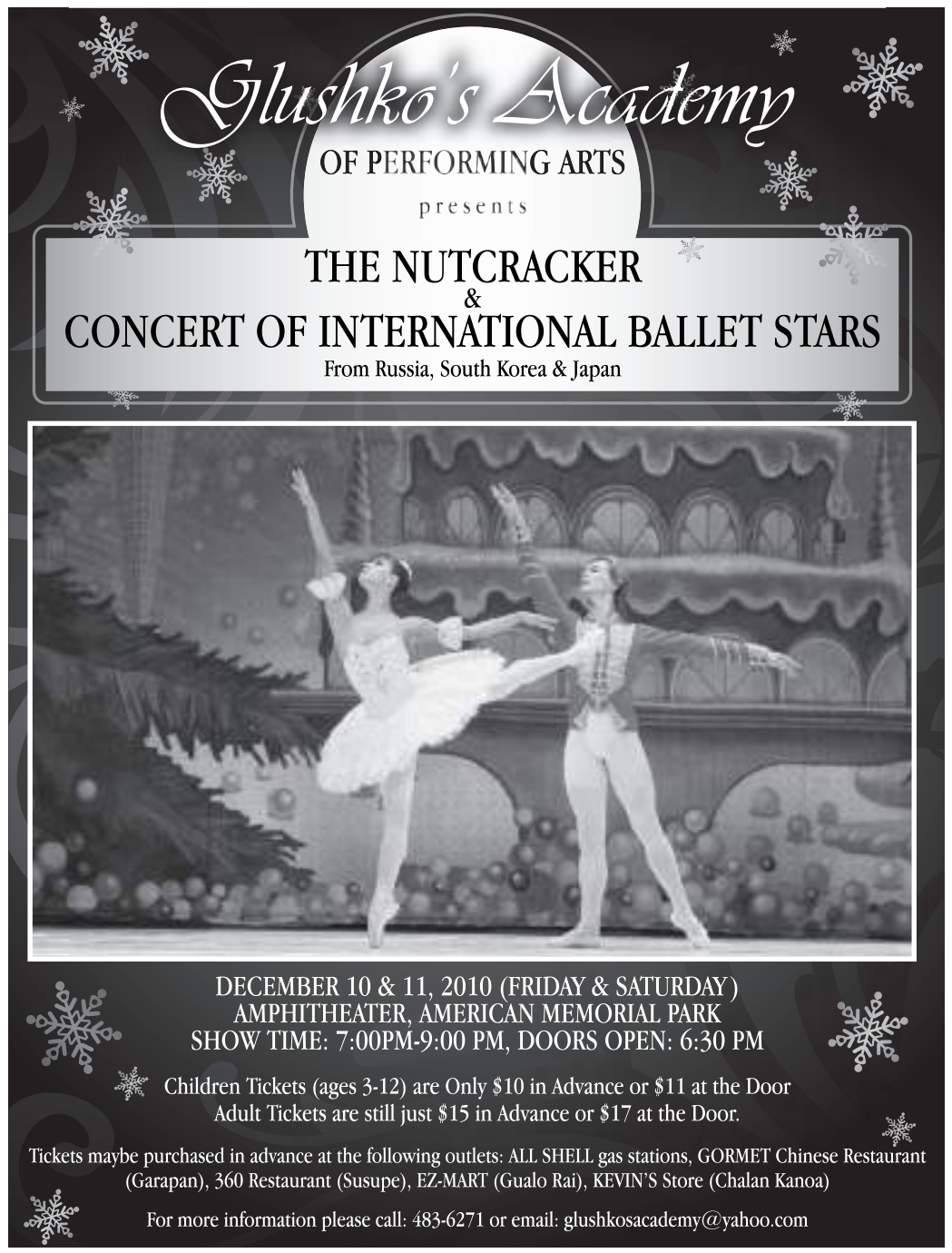
The fight allegedly escalated into violence, with Conley punching the victim in the face even after she fell on the floor. He then allegedly got on top of the victim and continued punching and kicking her.

When the victim began screaming, Conley stopped and left the house.

The victim called the clinic. A clinic staff later picked her up and brought her to the clinic.

Assistant public defender Michael Brown served as counsel for Conley. Assistant attorney general Eli Golob appeared for the government.







Gov't employees to get paid today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government employees in non-critical service positions who did not receive their paychecks last week will get paid today.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who has been tasked by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to oversee financial matters, said the CNMI is not out of the woods yet despite the release of payroll today.

"It's a decision between meeting payroll and paying vendors like medical providers," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Press secretary Angel Demapan said today's payroll will be an automatic or electronic transfer.

Inos said the government does not expect to see fresh cash until Jan. 31, the deadline for quarterly tax payments.

Only critical service personnel such as police officers, fire fighters, corrections officers, juvenile detention officers, doctors and nurses were paid on Thursday, a day before the scheduled payroll Friday. All federally funded personnel also received their paychecks on time.

It was the sixth time that the CNMI government had a partial payless payday since June because of severe cash shortage.

Most government employees are also now paid only 64 hours instead of the regular 80 hours per pay period because of the austerity provision of the fiscal year 2011 budget.

In addition, government employees are likely not to get paid tomorrow, Constitution Day.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC-CREES offers support with forum on Slaughterhouse Project

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service will be offering technical support in hosting a public forum sponsored by the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

The public forum on the "Slaughterhouse Project" and will be held on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

The event aims to allow members in the community, especially ranchers, producers, and interested entrepreneurs, to discuss and comment on the feasibility of creating a slaughterhouse on Saipan.

For more information, contact NMC-CREES Outreach Coordinator Claus Bier at 285-2335. ***(NMC)***

OES PTSA meeting set

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Babauta on emergency declaration at Guam Memorial Hospital

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, issued the following statement in the wake of the declaration of a state of emergency at the Guam Memorial Hospital:

"Today I have agreed to Governor Felix Camacho's request to reprogram $1 million of Guam's share of compact impact funding to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. The funding will be used to supplement any additional local funds that may be available to Governor Camacho to purchase medical supplies for the GMHA in response to the recent declaration of emergency. I appreciate the challenges of the hospital's leadership to overcome current outstanding debt owed to vendors and in turn the patience of vendors to continue doing business with the hospital in light of these difficult times. I am confident that Guam's leaders will be working together in the days ahead to address this debt. It remains critically important for the hospital to continue providing care to the island's community and that services go uninterrupted. In the interim, Governor Camacho and GMHA Administrator Peter John Camacho have assured me that the reprogramming of compact impact funds will allow the GMHA to continue operating as smoothly as possible." ***(DOI)***

Educational assistance program deadlines for Winter/Spring 2010

Application deadline for new or returning applicants: Dec. 15, 2010 (For those who submitted an application for fall term 2010, they do not have to reapply for Winter/Spring term). Deadline for supporting documents: Feb. 28, 2011. For more information call 664-4750/52 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(PR)***

Austerity Fridays for govt sports facilities

All CNMI-owned sports facility (Ada Gym) and other sports grounds (basketball court and baseball fields) under the DCCA-Division of Sports and Recreation will be closed every austerity Friday.

Sports organizations (private or government leagues), NMASA, and DS&R staff are urged to coordinate with DS&R director Joe A. Lizama or his staff to accommodate any planned events as not to conflict with this directive.

■ The Francisco Palacios baseball field and the Miguel Pangelinan ball field will be closed for field preparation and maintenance beginning Dec 20, 2010.

■ Sports organizations are also urged to submit their (tentative) 2011 calendar of events via email at gymsport@pticom.com or fax at 664-2510

For more information, contact Lizama at 664-2508. ***(PR)***

CUC

From Page 1

go back to the days of frequent power outages if the scheduled overhaul of power engines is delayed any further.

There are three power plants in Lower Base with a combined 21 engines. A few of these units are not currently working.

Malae disclosed yesterday that five engines—three large and two small ones—need immediate overhaul and other repairs within the next 12 months and this will cost CUC a total of $4.2 million.

Malae said the large engines are engines No. 5, 6, and 8 while the small engines are engines No. 2 and 3.

For engine No. 8, the overhaul cost is estimated at $800,000, while engine No. 6 needs $1.8 million—$800,000 for overhaul and $1 million for repairing the foundation and replacing the anchor bolts.

For engine No. 5, CUC has to come up with $150,000 to replace its anchor bolts.

The smaller engine No. 3 needs $700,000 for its overhaul, while $800,000 is needed for engine No. 2—$700,000 for overhaul and $100,000 for replacing anchor bolts.

The lack of funds to buy needed engine parts was cited as the main reason for the delayed overhaul. CUC revenues generated from its customers are being used for operation, including personnel and all other expenses.

To stave off this potential disaster, Malae disclosed that CUC must secure sufficient financing for power plant operations and the agency's chief financial chief is now working on this.

Saipan Tribune learned that engine No. 8, for example, was scheduled to be overhauled in January this year but that has never happened.

"If the overhaul is delayed much longer, irreparable damage to the crankshaft may occur such as what happened about five years ago to engine No. 4—it was 24,000 hours beyond its scheduled major overhaul," Malae had said.

Engine No. 2, meantime, has over 24 years of running hours while three of the seven generators at the power plant are thousands of hours beyond the 36,000-hour major overhaul point.

Malae said that CUC's oldest engines are already 30 years old.

CUC has been under a state of emergency since 2008.

MARINES

From Page 1

The Okinawan lawmakers, led by Shingaki Tetsuji of the LDP, asked local lawmakers to help urge the U.S. government to consider Tinian as relocation site for the 4,000 Marines that will be left at Futenma after 8,000 troops are moved to Guam as part of the regional buildup.

Tetsuji's delegation met with members of the CNMI Senate, and then the House of Representatives on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) repeatedly said all military-related decisions lie with the U.S. government, and the CNMI government, particularly the Senate, can only express its support to the relocation of Marines to Tinian.

"The Senate, as shown by a resolution we adopted in April, is supportive of moving personnel to Tinian," Manglona told the visiting lawmakers.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) also told the visitors that the House adopted a resolution urging the U.S. Department of Defense and Japan to consider Tinian as the best relocation site for up to 4,000 troops from Futenma.

The Okinawan lawmakers, through Tasi Tours, however, said it seems there has been no follow-up since the House and Senate passed the resolution, including an acknowledgement from the U.S. government that it received copies of the resolution.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), who asked whether Japan will be shouldering the cost of relocating the troops to Tinian, said it's not clear how much Japan will be willing to shell out to pay for relocation costs to Tinian, although the visiting lawmakers said the economic impact of hosting relocated troops is around $102 million.

Okinawa and CNMI lawmakers traded questions about relocation plans.

Tenorio said the U.S. government leased two-thirds of Tinian for 100 years for a cost of only $17.5 million. The area covers 7,203 hectares.

Some 30 years had passed since that lease deal was signed but the U.S. military has not made any major development on the property.

CNMI lawmakers have raised the social impacts of relocating troops to Tinian, where there is currently no U.S. military personnel stationed.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said Tinian people have long waited for the military to make major developments on the island to benefit the local economy.

The Record of Decision related to the military buildup indicated that only live fire training ranges will be built on Tinian.

The delegation said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial cancelled their meeting with them.

But press secretary Angel Demapan said that meeting was not on the governor's calendar.

The Okinawan lawmakers' visit came seven months after members of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan also came to Saipan to meet with the governor and other leaders to drum up support for the use of Tinian as relocation site for troops from Futenma.

The DPJ members had hoped a meeting between Hatoyama and the governors of Guam and the CNMI will "accelerate" or bolster plans to renegotiate a 2006 accord between Japan and the U.S, but that meeting did not materialize.

But the U.S. government is sticking to the 2006 accord. The U.S. government maintains that the 2006 plan is the only viable option that would both reduce U.S. military presence of U.S. forces on Okinawa and maintain security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The visiting Okinawan lawmakers will be visiting Tinian today to meet with the island's officials.

INOS

From Page 1

the lieutenant governor's daughter in July to explain Inos's concurrence on Ogumoro's termination twice while the governor was off-island.

"I'm surprised he made that statement. If that's how he felt, I couldn't speak for him but certainly it's not what motivated me to concur with the termination," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Inos, a former Finance secretary and Fitial's friend since the Trust Territory days, said there's "abundant evidence and records that there have been grievances filed against Mr. Ogumoro for his actions and inactions."

"There have been substantiated allegations sufficient for us to weigh whether or not to (terminate) Mr. Ogumoro for that reason, and not because of my daughter. She's a grownup. It's unfortunate the governor decided to use that to explain this thing. That certainly is not the case," Inos said.

Kaye Inos quit her job at the Department of Public Safety in July when the governor reinstated Ogumoro.

No reason was cited for her resignation, but sources said it was because she did not like the way Ogumoro ran the department's operations and at one time, they had a disagreement on who among DPS personnel should attend off-island training.

Inos said his differences with Fitial are not "insurmountable."

"I'm just talking about fairness to help the people and not only a few, and we need to do that. If he's willing to do that, I'm amenable to work together. We have to be on the same page. We may differ on issues but the execution of policies we need to be on the same page," he said.

He cited their differences on hiring policies. He said the governor's directive that no one will be hired without his personal approval is not fair, considering that he's not on island all the time and that this could also be relegated to Cabinet or department secretaries.

Inos said he and Fitial also differed on the issue of awarding a no-bid, sole-source contract to former Commerce secretary Michael Ada to oversee ARRA matters.

"I was just hoping these contracts go through the normal procurement process. I'm not saying they're inappropriate. But the governor is the governor," Inos said.

Inos said if the governor said he didn't remember the last time they spoke, "then that means it's been a long time." That was since July.

The governor plans to renew Ogumoro's contract as range master, after Inos concurred with Public Safety commissioner Santiago Tudela's removal of Ogumoro last month over lack of employment status and retaliation against employees who file grievances against him.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday this is still under process.

Inos also said if Ogumoro is really indispensable to this administration and that Ogumoro is qualified to run DPS, then the governor might as well make Ogumoro DPS commissioner. This needs the Senate's confirmation.

Fitial held a Cabinet meeting yesterday morning after meeting with House leadership members, while Inos started his day at the Department of Finance to address payroll and other financial matters.

There were also a few times when Inos did his work at home.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who was asked by Fitial not to step down as speaker, said the rift between Inos and Fitial will be a concern only to Inos if he would run as governor four years from now, while Fitial can no longer seek another term.

But Inos said the real challenge is not the differences between him and the governor, but how to keep the CNMI from further economic harm.

"I want to assure the public that I am doing the best I can to carry out the mandate they elected me for," he added.

Government's life insurance coverage expiring this year

» Retirement Fund says IAC unlikely to continue due to unsustainable coverage

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund said government employees risk losing their life insurance coverage unless a single and affordable policy for all civil servants is negotiated with the Individual Assurance Company.

IAC's contract is set to expire on Dec. 31 and in its negotiations with the Fund officials, the life insurance policy carrier vowed that it will not renew its contract if a bigger insurance coverage for members is required.

Government employees' life insurance coverage was originally set to expire last Aug. 31, but IAC extended the coverage for another three months to give the Fitial administration more time.

However, Fund board of trustees disclosed last meeting that nothing has been finalized with regards to a uniform insurance policy for civil servants and retirees.

"It seems that IAC is not willing to continue because of the unsustainable coverage which is two times the salary of retirees. The company said it would rather terminate the policy than extend it for months if that's the case," the lawyer for the Fund reported to the board.

According to the Fund's internal auditor Esther Ada, the agency met with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently with both parties agreeing to push the passage of House Bill 17-77.

The measure amends in its entirety a law codified as the "Retirement Fund Contribution to Life Insurance" so that the Fund can negotiate for only one group life insurance for both retirees and active government employees. It is pending at the Senate.

The Fund earlier disclosed that the government will be able to save some $1.5 million annually if a single policy for all is negotiated.

Some lawmakers earlier opposed the passage of the legislation because they are concerned about the low benefits that may result from a single insurance coverage.

Fund officials disclosed last week that IAC is not willing to provide life insurance coverage of up to $20,000 per member.

If no decision is reached after Dec. 31, this will result in all government employees and retirees not being covered by any life insurance policy carrier.

"They're waiting for the bill to be passed, what if this didn't pass and the contract expired? Who will cover for those people who will pass away by Jan. 1?" asked board of trustee chair Sixto Igisomar.

Because the Fund only serves as administrator of the program, it cannot intervene on the negotiations between IAC and the administration for the policy.

However, Igisomar instructed the management to review the contract and come up with specific plans and option such as issuing request for proposal for another carrier.

"We should not wait until this contract is over and jump to doing the RFP... our concern is the retirees and we need to do something for them as part of our fiduciary duty," said Igisomar.

The government-run GHLIP, which is under the auspices of the NMI Retirement Fund, had said that if parties are unable to negotiate a policy that is affordable to retirees, active employees, and the CNMI government, then the government will have to self-insure again, just like what it did between Dec. 16 and Dec. 30, 2009, when NetCare Health and Insurance ended its contract with the Fund over an unsettled contract dispute.

ACCJC visiting team report still in draft form

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' report on its three-day inspection of the Northern Marianas College last October is still in draft form.

This according to NMC, which added that the ACCJC report has yet been finalized and thus, not ready for public dissemination at present.

"This is in response to your request for a copy of the report being prepared by the ACCJC visiting team members who were on campus last October. The report is currently in draft form and is not yet available for public dissemination," said NMC in its statement yesterday.

Furthermore, the college said that due to ACCJC's Policy on Public Disclosure, which can be found on pages 95-103 of the ACCJC Accreditation Reference Handbook, NMC must maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality with ACCJC at this juncture in the accreditation process.

"As such, we cannot and should not publicly distribute copies of the report at this time," it said, adding that NMC is committed to complyying with ACCJC's policy on public disclosure.

NMC, however, assured that the college will make the full report accessible on its website once the accrediting commission indicates that it is appropriate to do so.

There are 10 new recommendations cited in WASC's June 30 show-cause letter to NMC. The college, in its about 40-page report, provided the corrective measures to these citations and justified the college accreditation.

In January 2011, the commission is expected to either accept or reject the college's report. NMC—after the commission's action—may be placed in probation, retain its show cause status, or revocation of the accreditation to WASC.

IMMIGRATION LAW
Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara
Available services include
• U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
• U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
• Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
• Status Clarification
Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081
Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan



‘A need for a cohesive plan for cultural heritage preservation’

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Cecilia Lizama Salvatore of the School of Library & Information Science from the Dominican University in Illinois poses with participants of the “Cultural Heritage Collections in the CNMI: Doing Your Part” workshop yesterday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

An associate professor from the Dominican University in Illinois has identified the need for a more cohesive plan for cultural heritage collections preservation in the CNMI.

Dr. Cecilia Lizama Salvatore of the School of Library & Information Science, however, said this is possible if those involved in cultural heritage preservation have an understanding of the task at hand and receive adequate training in the process.

“Preserving our cultural heritage collections is possible if all agencies and organizations that have cultural heritage collections work together and come up with a cohesive plan,” Salvatore told *Saipan Tribune*.

Salvatore arrived on island Saturday morning to conduct a presentation and workshop on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota about cultural heritage in the Commonwealth.

“Cultural Heritage Collections in the CNMI: Doing Your Part” is part of the Connecting to Collections 2010 CNMI Cultural Assets Restoration Education Strategy project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Studies.

The 2010 CNMI CARES is a year-long project that has two components: the planning and assessment phase and the implementation phase.

Over 40 participants took part in the workshop conducted by Salvatore yesterday on Saipan from 9am to 3pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Salvatore will also conduct the workshop today at the Tinian Public Library from 11am to 3pm and at the Rota Public Library on Dec. 9, Thursday, also from 11am to 3pm.

During the workshop, participants were encouraged to bring an object that represents cultural heritage for them as part of the cultural heritage discussion.

Salvatore said the workshops also aim to explore the components of the cultural heritage of the different communities, and the issues involving the preservation of these cultural heritage collections and resources.

“The workshop is a good opportunity to have conversation or dialogue about what cultural heritage is for the participants and why it is important to preserve it,” she said.

The associate professor said the workshop also served as an opportunity for different agencies and organizations to know what kind of cultural heritage collections they have and understand the various collection policies they implement.

Health heritage index

Based on the Heritage Health Index, Salvatore said there are more than 4.8 billion artifacts in the United States. These include rare books and manuscripts, photographs, documents, sound recordings, moving images, digital materials, art, historic and ethnographic objects, archaeological artifacts, and natural science specimens.

She said the stewardship of these cultural heritage collections involves different aspects, taking in environmental and storage conditions, emergency planning, staffing, and funding.

According to Salvatore, environmental control has been identified as the most urgent preservation need, prompting her to educate the participants about temperature, air quality, and lighting to better preserve CNMI’s cultural heritage.

Intangible property

Salvatore noted that preservation should be done not only for concrete, physical resources but also intangible cultural properties.

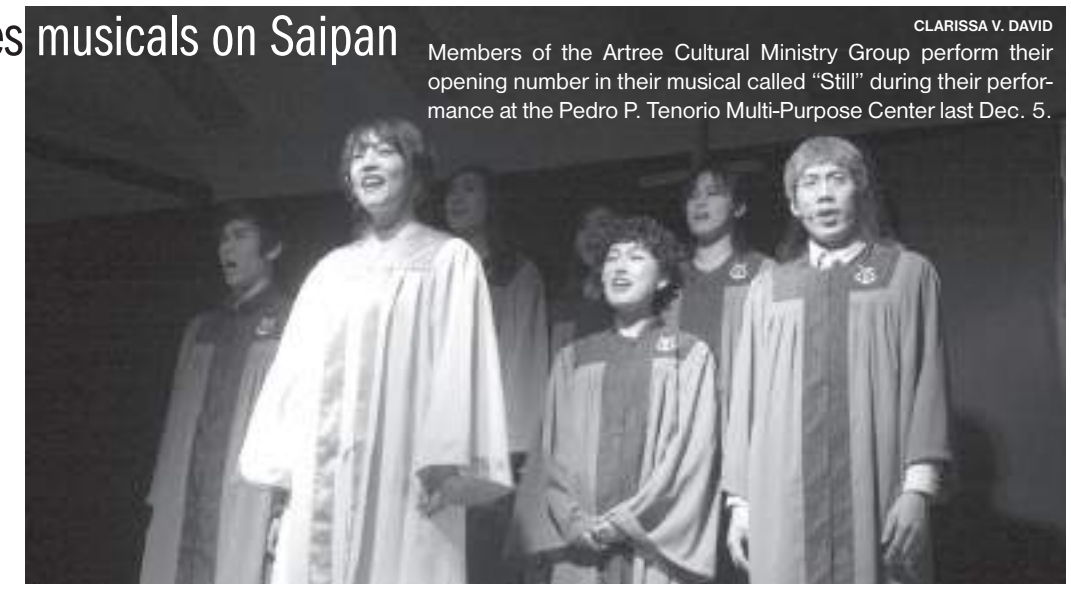
Intangible cultural properties refer to language, rituals, and traditions of people that also need to be preserved.

“These are just as important as books or artifacts,” she added.

With this need, Salvatore called for a better understanding of archival functions and duties to improve preservation of cultural heritage.

Korean Christian musical group stages musicals on Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Artree Cultural Ministry Group perform their opening number in their musical called “Still” during their performance at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Dec. 5.

Artree Cultural Ministry Group, a renowned Christian musical group from Korea, came to Saipan to stage three different plays last Dec. 2-4 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The 22-member team led by Pastor Kim Kwan Yong, which arrived on Saipan on Nov. 30, is known for their various plays and musicals at Daehakro, one of Seoul’s major tourist attractions and dubbed Korea’s Broadway theater.

Judy Kim of Good News Church of Saipan, which served as Artree’s host on island, said all Artree actors and members are full-time missionaries acclaimed for sharing the gospel and word of God through their performances.

“Artree has gladly donated their time and self-paid [their] expenses to offer everyone on Saipan a chance to come out and watch all three musicals at a very, very low ticket cost of $5,” Kim told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Kim, Artree brought in their equipment needed to present their two musicals, *Lucas* and *Still* and a production called *Play Clothes.*

Lucas is a musical based on a true story that happened in a mentally challenged community in Canada called Daybreak. The story involves a newborn infant christened Lucas that has a condition that would only give him 15 minutes to live. Miraculously, Lucas lives long enough to bring the community together and teach them about love.

Play Clothes is based on a true story about two brothers in China. In the story, the older brother sacrifices his life for his younger brother who committed a crime, just as Jesus died for the sins of humanity.

Still is a musical based on a true story about a pastor’s wife who becomes a prostitute. Through her husband’s love, the wife realizes her wrongdoings and begins to live her life with renewed faith.

Gye Hwan Park, one of the actors in the plays, also served as the director for the three theater productions.

The group is scheduled to leave Saipan today.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (October 15, 2010)

II. BOARD ORGANIZATION
1. Election of Officers
2. Appointments of Standing Committee Chairs and members

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. None

VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. SIA Runway Rehabilitation CM Amendment No. 1
2. SIA Runway Rehabilitation Change Order No. 2
3. SIA Runway Rehabilitation Supplemental Agreement No. 1
4. SIA Taxiway Conversion Change Order No. 15
5. Supplemental Budget Request: ROP Runway Phase II Project
6. ROP Runway Phase II CM Amendment No. 3
7. ROP Runway Phase II Change Order No. 4
8. Personnel Matter: Employment Contract Renewal

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
December 6, 2010

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for procurement of the following:

(1) Data-Base System for managing, maintaining and evaluating data as it relates to the organization’s client base; and/or
(2) Computer system(s) and networking options for the organization’s staff.

NMPASI is the designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the data-base system and/or computer system(s)/networking should be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than December 15, 2010.

Award will be based on specific factors such as responsiveness to specific, unique needs of the organization, prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. Please call (670) 235-7273/4 [tel] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or email jamesrayphand@yahoo.com to schedule a meeting with Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director, and/or other NMPASI staff to discuss the organization’s specific needs as they relate to above.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DEQ-030

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 03, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) X-RAY FLOURESCENT FIELD SCREENING INSTRUMENT WITH ACCOMPANYING ACCESSORIES FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, ***LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE,*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Judge Inos frees man who allegedly beats up wife in front of three kids

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos yesterday modified the $25,000 cash bail imposed on a man who allegedly beat up her wife in front of her three minor children at their residence in Garapan.

Inos allowed John Mendiola Camacho to instead post a $25,000 property bond.

Camacho was released from custody after he posted an appearance bond secured by a mortgage on a piece of land consisting of 1,010 square meters of land in Garapan owned by his father.

Inos approved the defendant's father, Luis Salas Camacho, as a third-party custodian.

The judge appointed attorney Joaquin Torres, as counsel for the defendant.

Inos required the 40-year-old Camacho to observe a daily 7pm to 6am curfew.

Camacho was arrested on Nov. 28, 2010 on charges of assault and battery, assault, child abuse, and disturbing the peace.

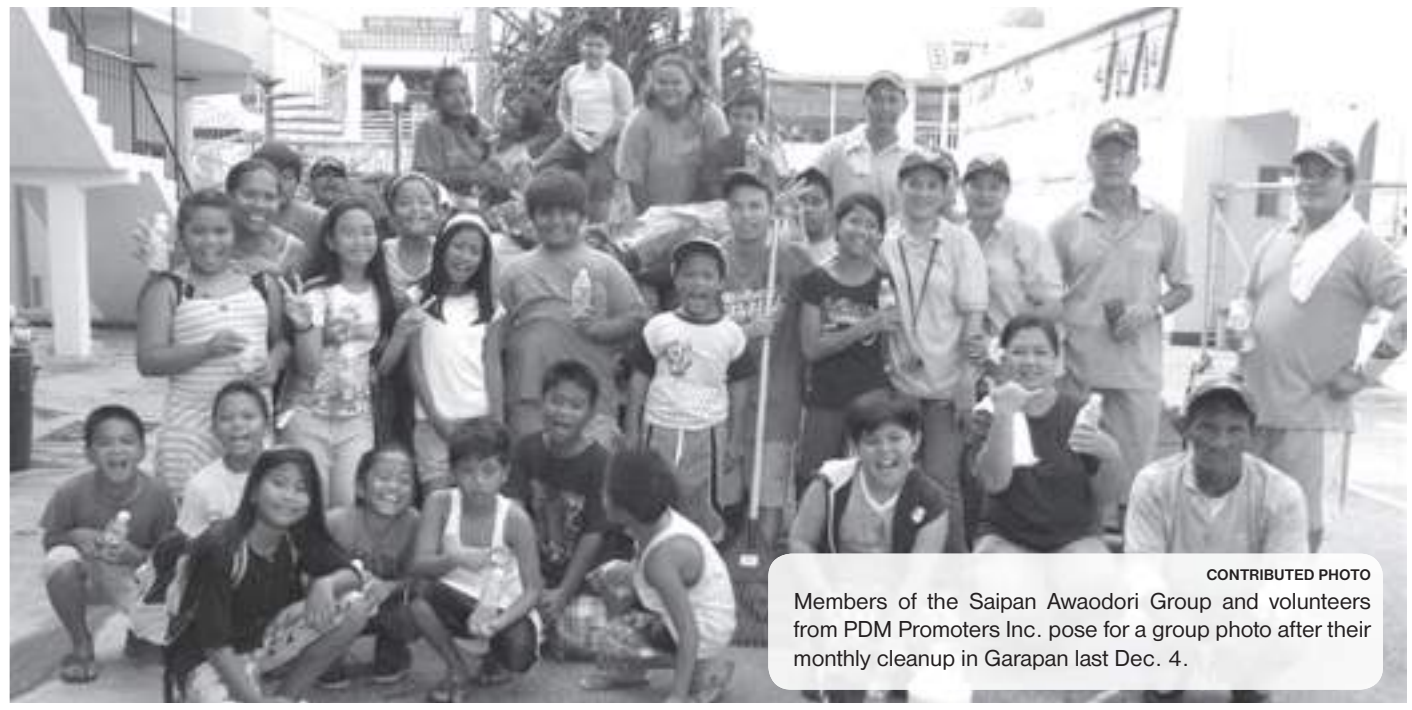
Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that on Nov. 28, the intoxicated Camacho walked into the bedroom where his wife and her three children were watching TV.

Camacho turned off the TV, unplugged it, and shouted at his wife and children to get out and sleep on the balcony or on the road.

As the children were crying for fear, the defendant allegedly pushed his wife against the wall, punched her on the cheek, and grabbed her by the hair.

The detective said it was the fourth time that the government provided shelter to the wife because of Camacho's beating. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PDM Promoters holds monthly cleanup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Group and volunteers from PDM Promoters Inc. pose for a group photo after their monthly cleanup in Garapan last Dec. 4.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Group participated in the monthly cleanup of PDM Promoters Inc. on Dec. 4.

More than 20 young Awaodori members from Tanapag, Gualo Rai, and Koblerville took part in the monthly cleanup scheduled every first or second Saturday of the month.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters said the children, along with some of their parents, helped 13 volunteers of PDM Promoters Inc. in cleaning and picking up trash in the Garapan area.

Siwa told *Saipan Tribune* that the monthly cleanup project of PDM Promoters aims to promote a clean and better Garapan to attract more tourists in the area.

Siwa added that the cleanup also teaches the children to be aware of their responsibility in keeping their surroundings clean.

"Through the cleanup, these children learn that throwing trash is not good for the environment because they themselves experience picking up trash. It's a way to teach them about their civic duty in the community where they belong," she said.

Saturday's cleanup collected 300 lbs of trash.

Aside from the monthly cleanup, PDM Promoters also holds other activities that encourage visitors in the tourist district of the island.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



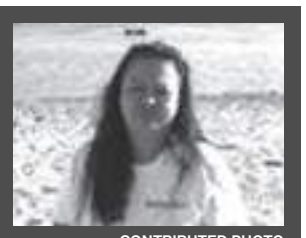
Happy belated third birthday to our Spiderman fanatic Jared Teagan S. Aguon! Hope you enjoyed your day and may the Lord continue to watch over you. Lots of love from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Maricar Kisa. Wish you to be healthy, more beautiful, wealthy, and always with your family. We love you! Greetings from Shielavee Goto and friends that's always been there for you all the time.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Mary Borja. May you enjoy your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from your family.

NEW FRESH MARKET

OPEN DAILY: 5:30am - 12:30am • TEL. 234-9050

Pre-Christmas Sale

WE ACCEPT MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

IT&E | NEW FRESH MARKET | HONG ELECTRIC

« TO SAN JOSE | MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU | TO GARAPAN »

COCA-COLA

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. LIMITS MAY VARY

PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FROZEN | GROCERIES | FROZEN | GROCERIES | FROZEN | GROCERIES | FROZEN | GROCERIES | FROZEN | GROCERIES

CHICKEN LEG QUARTER $14.99 22# $19.99 33#
PORK SPARERIBS $20.99 20 #
WHOLE CHICKEN $34.99 30#
PORK BABY RIBS $17.99
BEEF BACK RIBS $25.99 20LBS.
GROUND BEEF $9.99 5 LBS. $16.99 10 LBS.
CHOP HAM $8.99 5 LBS. $16.99 10 LBS.
BAR-S HOTDOG $1.10
BAR-S BACON $2.99

LOTUS JASMINE RICE $24.99 50 LBS.
TURKEY TAIL $18.99 CASE
CHICKEN WINGS $12.99 5.5 LBS.
PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE $1.99
CHAMORRO SAUSAGE $4.99
VEGA SHRIMP $4.99
GREEN MUSSELS $4.99
TILAPIA 99¢ /LB.
MILK FISH $1.39 /LB.

GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES |

SPAM $2.39
BLACK LABEL $1.49
OX & PALM $2.59
CORNED BEEF HASH $1.99
CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP 99¢
LIGO SARDINES 3 FOR $1.00
LUCKY ME SOBA 4 FOR $1.00
DELMONTE FIESTA FRUIT COCKTAIL $4.99 6X#10
VEGETABLE OIL $7.99 1 GAL.
ICHIBAN RAMEN $8.99 CASE
NONG SHIM BOWL SOBA $7.99 CASE
FOREMOST MILK $16.99 CASE
REAL FRESH MILK $20.99
MORTON SALT 69¢
KIKOMAN SOY SAUCE $3.99 1.6 L.

CERAMIC CUPS AND DISHES 20% OFF
PILLOW COVERS 2 FOR $7.99
KID'S CLOTHES 50% OFF
WALL DECORS 20% OFF

BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE

HITE BEER $16.99 CASE
ASAHI $20.99 CASE
LITE BEER $19.98 CASE
RED HORSE BEER $2.75 BOTTLE $14.99 CASE/6 BOTTLES
BUSCH BEER $16.99 CASE
BUDWEISER $26.99 CASE
COKE $13.99 CASE
KOOL AID JAMMERS $2.99 BOX
SEOK SU WATER 500 ML $5.99 CASE

PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE

POTATOES 69¢ /LB.
ONION 59¢ /LB.
GARLIC $1.99 /NET
ORANGE 89$ /LB.
EGGS MEDIUM $1.49 /DOZ. XLARGE $1.89 /DOZ.

NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD

CHARMIN TISSUE BASIC $7.99 12 BIG ROLLS
CHARMIN TISSUE ULTRA STRONG $7.99 24 ROLLS
FOAM PLATE $7.99 125 CT.
LUVS BIG BOX $19.99 SIZE: 3,4,5,6
BOUNTY $15.99 15 ROLLS
BOUNTY $8.99 8 ROLLS

Trial of two suspected 'ice' traffickers begins

The jury trial of two suspected "ice" traffickers began yesterday in the Superior Court.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona conducted the jury selection in the case against Ignacio A. Deleon Guerrero Sr. and George Taitano Manglona.

Manglona will continue the jury selection today, Tuesday.

After seven jurors, including an alternate, are selected, jury instructions then opening statements normally would follow.

Assistant Attorney Generals Benjamin Petersburg and Shelli Neal are prosecuting the case.

Attorney James Norita Camacho is counsel for Deleon Guerrero, while assistant public defender Michael Brown is defending Manglona.

Members of the CNMI Drug Task Force arrested Deleon Guerrero and Manglona on March 10, 2010 for trafficking of a controlled substance, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Drug Enforcement Task Force detective Sean White stated in his report that they received information from a "cooperating source" that Deleon Guerrero, also known as Ike Kabayu, and Manglona were selling "ice" at Deleon Guerrero's house.

White said Task Force members used a "cooperating source" to buy $40 worth of "ice" from Deleon Guerrero, and $50 worth of "ice" from Manglona.

White said the "cooperating source" disclosed that Manglona had been in possession of a .9mm pistol to intimidate "ice" customers.

When the team raided the house of Deleon Guerrero in Chalan Kanoa, a 17-year-old male, who was at the scene, was also arrested for illegal possession of marijuana.

Deleon Guerrero pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SDA School 5K Hope Run raises over $2,000



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants for the 5K Hope Run organized by the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School gather at the Garapan Fishing Base before the race on Dec. 5. The 5K Hope Run is an annual activity that aims that to raise funds for the 2011-2012 Hope Run scholarship program.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 75 runners participated in the recently concluded 5K Hope Run of the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School, raising a total amount of $2,543.

The 5K Hope Run was held last Dec. 5 from Garapan Fishing Base to the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road and back.

Public relations director Virle Gayatin said the 5K Hope Run is an annual activity that aims to raise funds for the 2011-2012 Hope Run scholarship program.

Gayatin said the Hope Run scholarship program is open to student at any grade level and helps these young, eligible students to receive education at the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School.

"Through the 5K Hope Run event, we are able to help children in the community to attend school by providing them partial scholarships," Gayatin told *Saipan Tribune*.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 5K Hope Run participants get ready at the start of the race course at Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 5.

Gayatin said the 5K Hope Run was initiated last year and raised about $2,000, enabling two students to benefit in the Hope Run scholarship program.

According to Gayatin, this year's fundraising event saw the participation of more runners for each of the three categories: children ages 10 and below, youth from 11 to 18 years old, and adult for above 18 years.

The Top 3 winners for the children's category were Allen Stafford, Ramnes Karben, and Samuel Duenas. They received $25 worth of gift certificates from National Office Supply and gift packs from Best Seller Bookstore and Lollipops.

Dominating the youth category were Jong Woo Kim, Julius Barro, and Thomas Lee. Each won a certificate for a lunch buffet for two at Fiesta Resort and Spa.

Frank Diesta, Kenneth Pierson, and Brian Bearden, who ruled the adult category, took home a certificate for a dinner buffet for two at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Top 10 participants for each category also received the 5K Hope Run shirt. The rest of the runners received gift packs from the Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic.

"It was a great turnout. We didn't expect to have more runners this year. I'm glad we had a good weather during the run. Everything went smoothly," she said.

Gayatin added that aside from the amount raised from the 5K Hope Run event, they are still waiting for individuals who have pledged money for the program.

Gayatin expressed her appreciation to all the participants as well as the event sponsors.

SELF-GOVERNMENT



United Nations adviser and expert on political self-determination Dr. Carlyle Corbin, left, speaks to members of the CNMI Legislature while former Guam senator Dr. Hope Cristobal, right, looks on at a Thursday presentation in the House chamber. Corbin said it is always good for the CNMI, or any other insular area, to assess its political status periodically to take into consideration recent developments, including the federal takeover of local immigration.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 7, 1998

Governor: No MVA budget cuts

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio assured Friday anew the Marianas Visitors Authority that he will exclude the agency in the planned reduction of budget for fiscal year 1999 so as not to disrupt its main task of promoting the Northern Marianas abroad. In fact, Tenorio said he wants to give MVA additional funds so that it can continue marketing the CNMI in other countries amid the plunge in tourists arrivals. The governor gave the assurance after board chairman Dave M. Sablan warned Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen against including MVA in the budget cut because it would devastate the promotional campaign of the half-a-billion-dollar tourism industry.

MVA kicks in $60K to JAL promo

The Marianas Visitors Authority board has approved a $60,000 funding for Japan Airlines' three-month promotional campaign to help the CNMI capture its lost market share in Japan. According to Perry John Tenorio, managing director of MVA, said the amount will be used in the printing of some 80,000 brochures to be distributed to participating Japanese wholesalers. JAL's three-month promo will cost some $210,000 and will involve bags and camera give aways to travelers. The airline is scheduled to launch the "JAL Saipan Campaign" beginning Jan. 3, 1999 which is targeting some 12,000 visitors to the CNMI. Due to the downtrend in tourist arrivals and the cutthroat competition in the travel industry, the CNMI's half-a-billion dollar tourism industry has severely suffered amid Asia's financial crisis.

Dec. 7, 1999

Airline to provide Pampanga-Saipan charter flights

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas welcomes move by Armenian Airlines to carry out charter flights from Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Philippines to Saipan before the end of the year. However, such plan still hinges on the approval by the U.S. Department of Transportation of the airline's permit to operate in Saipan. Armenian Airlines is expected to get the huge Filipino market on the island with its plan to offer cheaper airfare and more convenient schedule. For many years, Continental Airlines has cornered a big chunk of the huge Filipino market despite its unfriendly schedule that makes them wait for at least three hours in Guam airport.

Teno: NMI's participation in tourism fair a success

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday considered CNMI's participation in a tourism and travel fair in Japan "successful" as he appealed to several Japanese tour operators to help the government entice travelers to the island. He said he had met with travel agents and key officials in Tokyo during the week-long event organized by Japan Association of Travel Agents or JATA to personally ask their assistance. Attended by over a hundred countries and considered the largest gathering of Japan's travel industry, the fair allowed the CNMI to join Guam and other Micronesian islands in promoting the region's tourism industry.

Dec. 7, 2000

Senate expected to okay Karimipour's nomination

Public Defender Masood Karimipour is expected to get the Senate confirmation on his appointment during a session scheduled today after the senators delayed the approval at their session last Nov. 12. He was named in October by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to the post which he held in acting capacity following the resignation of former chief of Public Defender's Office, Harvey Palefsky, earlier this year. Backed by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes and members of the Senate Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, Mr. Karimipour is the latest addition to the Cabinet of this two-year administration.

NMHC beefs up efforts to reduce too much reliance on public housing

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation is beefing up its efforts to promote the Self-Sufficiency Program among families currently receiving Section-8 benefits to reduce too much reliance on the federally-funded public housing program. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada disclosed NMHC, on a quarterly basis, holds special sessions with public housing beneficiaries to instill in them the value of economic independence through education and skills development. NMHC regularly brings in experts from the Department of Labor and Immigration, the Department of Commerce and private organizations to hold parenting classes before Section-8 beneficiaries.

GOLD IS OVER $1,300 AN OUNCE ★ GOLD IS OVER $1,300 AN OUNCE ★ GOLD IS OVER $1,300 AN OUNCE

BUYING!
GOLD ★ SILVER ★ PLATINUM

4 DAY BUYING EVENT!
TINIAN & ROTA

CA$H FOR CHRISTMAS
Special Christmas Bonus Offers!

9AM TO 4PM ALL DAYS

TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL AND CASINO
Wednesday Dec. 8th & Thursday Dec. 9th

ROTA RESORT AND COUNTRY CLUB
Saturday Dec. 11th & Sunday Dec. 12th

9AM TO 4PM ALL DAYS — AS SEEN ON TV & RADIO

CASH ON THE SPOT FOR YOUR GOLD!
WE WANT THE 10K - 12K - 14K - 16K - 18K - 22K - 24K THAT YOU DON'T!

- ☑ **Gold Bracelets**..... up to $2,000
- ☑ **Gold Necklaces**..... up to $2,500
- ☑ **Gold Rings**..... up to $500
- ☑ **Gold Watch Cases**..... up to $750
- ☑ **Gold Watch Bands**..... up to $1,000
- ☑ **Gold Wedding Bands**..... up to $350
- ☑ **Gold Bangles**..... up to $850
- ☑ **Gold Pendants**..... up to $300
- ☑ **Gold Charm Bracelets**... up to $2,000
- ☑ **Gold Charms**..... up to $300
- ☑ **Gold School Rings**..... up to $500
- ☑ **Gold Chains**..... up to $1,000
- ☑ **Gold Earrings**..... up to $200
- ☑ **Dental Gold**..... up to $900
- ☑ **Gold Scrap**..... up to $1,250
- ☑ **Gold Nugget Bracelets**.. up to $2,500
- ☑ **Gold Broken Necklaces** up to $1,500
- ☑ **Gold Pens**..... up to $400
- ☑ **Gold Watches**..... up to $1,750
- ☑ **Gold Nugget Rings**..... up to $800
- ☑ **Gold Pocket Watches**..... up to $750
- ☑ **Gold Link Bracelets**..... up to $2,500
- ☑ **Gold Broken Chains**..... up to $1,000
- ☑ **Gold Service Awards**..... up to $500
- ☑ **Gold Broken Bracelets**.. up to $1,500
- ☑ **Gold Cuff Links**..... up to $300
- ☑ **Gold Broken Rings**..... up to $500
- ☑ **Gold Brooches**..... up to $1,000
- ☑ **Gold Coins**..... up to $15,000
- ☑ **Gold Bars**..... up to $15,000

WE ALSO BUY ALL STERLING SILVER AND PLATINUM JEWELRY. IF YOUR ITEMS AREN'T LISTED BRING THEM ALONG FOR A FREE APPRAISAL AND INSTANT CASH OFFER.

Gold Coins
Krugerrands, Eagles, Maple Leafs

With Gold up over 400% the past decade your coins could be worth a fortune. We'll appraise your Gold coins and PAY YOU CASH!

- ***$1.00 U.S. Gold*** ..... ***$75 to $3,500***
- ***$2.50 U.S. Gold*** ..... ***$125 to $5,500***
- ***$3.00 U.S. Gold*** ..... ***$250 to $5,750***
- ***$5.00 U.S. Gold*** ..... ***$250 to $7,500***
- ***$10.00 U.S. Gold*** ..... ***$500 to $11,500***
- ***$20.00 U.S. Gold*** ..... ***$1,000 to $15,000***

Minimum prices with gold spot at $1300. Prices subject to daily fluctuation. Bullion and foreign gold wanted. No collection too large or small. Free evaluation. No-obligation cash offer!



STERLING FLATWARE

We pay top dollar for sterling flatware sets, serving pieces and miscellaneous flatware. Monogrammed sterling ok.

$200 - $2,500





STOP POLISHING FOREVER. TURN YOUR STERLING INTO CASH!

Antique Tableware - Up to $5,000
Tea Sets - Up to $3,000
Serving Trays - Up to $1,000

We also want your Sterling candle holders, goblets, salt & pepper shakers, bowls, platters, and more!

Silver Coins
Morgans, Peace Dollars & more...

Are those stacks of old silver coins weighing you down? Bring them to our event today and let us pay you our highest cash price!

SILVER DOLLARS, SILVER HALVES, SILVER QUARTERS, SILVER DIMES

- ***$1.00 Silver*** (1935 & earlier) .. ***$11 up to $12,500***
- ***50C Silver*** (1964 & earlier)..... ***$4 up to $2,000***
- ***25C Silver*** (1964 & earlier)..... ***$2 up to $750***
- ***10C Silver*** (1964 & earlier)..... ***$.80 up to $250***

Max prices for rare coins in Mint State condition.

DON'T MAIL YOUR VALUABLES AWAY TO SOME OUT OF STATE COMPANY. SELL YOUR GOLD LOCALLY FOR MORE CASH WITH A COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST.

BRING THIS AD AND RECEIVE A BONUS OF UP TO
15% MORE
ON SCRAP GOLD & SILVER

NEW ★ OLD ★ BROKEN
WE BUY ALL!
YOUR UNWANTED JEWELRY COULD BE WORTH $1,000's!

CHRISTMAS BONUS CASH!
$50 MORE
WHEN YOU SELL 50 GRAMS OR MORE OF SCRAP GOLD

IMMEDIATE CASH PAID!
INSTANT APPRAISAL!

SECURITY PROVIDED BY PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

SECURED GOLD BUYERS

(888) 549-2878 ★ SecuredGoldBuyers.com
ATTENTION: WE ARE A STATE LICENSED BUYER

Secured Gold Buyers is an **Accredited Member of the BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU** BBB

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 291

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congress should act on critical to-do list

© 2010, The Kansas City Star

Colorado's U.S. Sen. Michael Bennett recently was heard lamenting to another senator that the lame duck session was "rigged."

The Democrat's aide explained that he meant the period after the election and before the new Congress takes office is "rigged to prevent progress."

It shouldn't be. The United States is in need of decisive action right now, and futzing about in the coming weeks is not acceptable.

■ Consider the unemployment-benefit extension Congress appears ready to let languish.

Despite some positive signs in the economy, the jobless rate remains above 9 percent, with about one available job for every five people seeking work—a statistic that isn't expected to change much in the near term. Congress has never failed to extend emergency benefits when unemployment is above 7.4 percent, and this would be a cruel time to start.

Cutting loose the millions of unemployed is a mistake, especially for the individuals who could face losing their homes to foreclosure and for the economy.

The $5 billion monthly unemployment benefits price tag is also $5 billion a month that will not be moving through the American economy. That means less money to grocers and gas stations and shops. Unemployment benefits keep cash flowing in bad times.

■ By some twisted logic, Congress is simultaneously considering extending the Bush tax cuts for all—including the wealthiest Americans—a move that will result in more than $5 billion a month in foregone revenue.

The 10-year cost in foregone revenue is $3.7 trillion, and far too much of that would accrue to the benefit of the super rich. Republicans are using the idea that the wealthiest Americans will use their tax break extensions to create jobs, though they have no answer for why that hasn't been the case the last several years. Giving a hand to the wealthy while abandoning the desperate is indefensible.

■ On national security issues, Congress faces the matter of ratifying the third version of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

This treaty is an extension of a process started by President George H.W. Bush, and advanced by President George W. Bush. Under it, the United States and Russia would reduce nuclear stockpiles by up to 30 percent, and continue to allow each nation to inspect and verify the other's progress, a process that lapsed last year.

Given that this treaty furthers the goals of the last two GOP presidents, it appears the opposition is now just a purely partisan effort led by Republican Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona.

The treaty needs two-thirds Senate approval. Opponents are clearly trying to deny President Barack Obama a foreign policy victory.

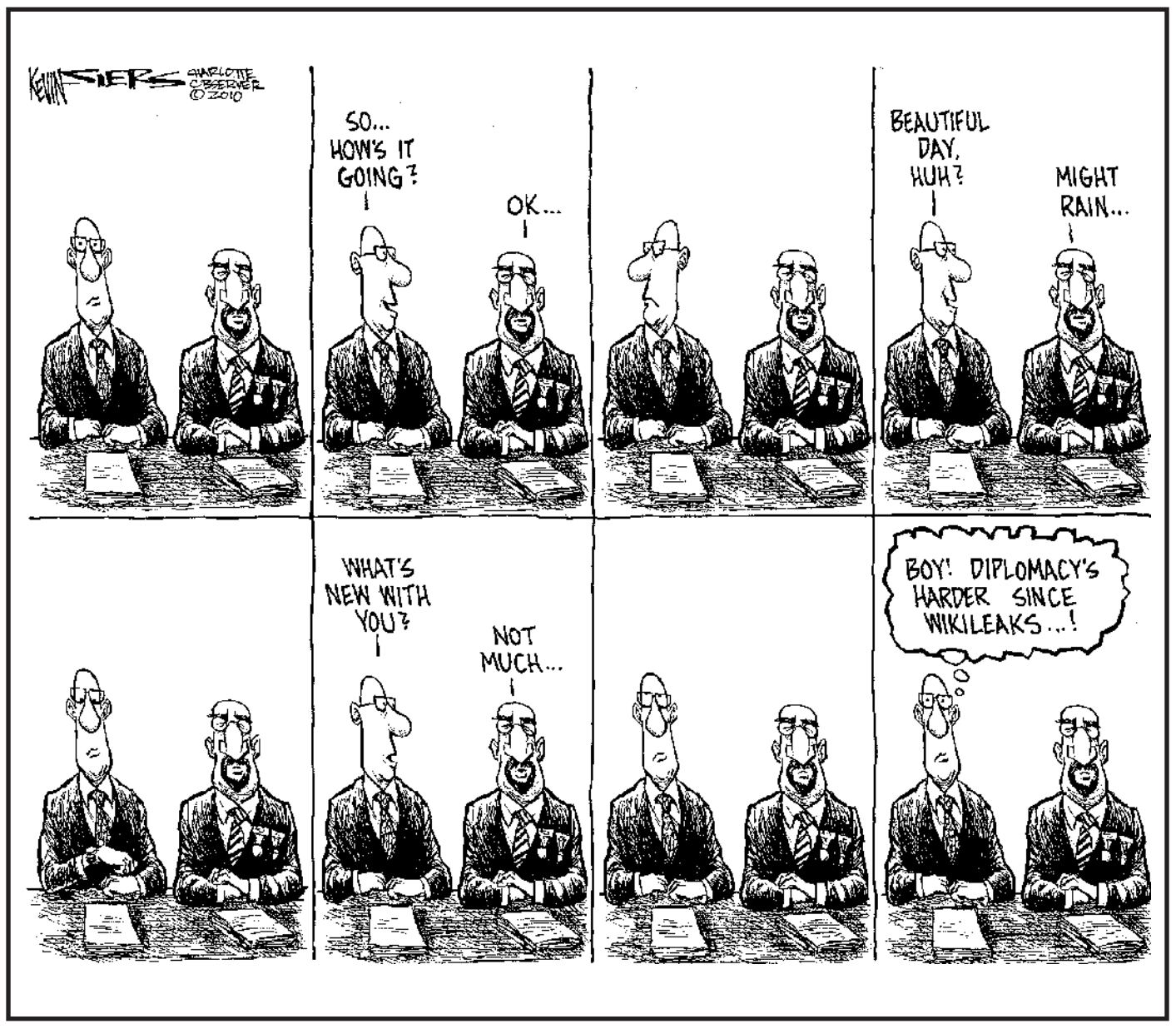
Passing the continuation of START is the only responsible action, and GOP opposition is dangerous politics.

■ The agenda for this month should include repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," allowing gays to serve openly in the U.S. military.

Among active and reserve forces, a new Pentagon study showed 70 percent favor ending the policy of forcing gays who wish to serve this country to hide their sexuality.

That fit nicely with recent polls indicating more than three-quarters of all Americans favor dumping the 17-year-old policy.

See CONGRESS on Next Page



Not the best-kept secrets

By FRIDA GHITIS
McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her e-mail at fjghitis@gmail.com.*



What have we learned so far from the WikiLeaks trove of secret documents?

We have discovered that what American diplomats say behind closed doors is not terribly different from what they say in front of open microphones. The tone changes a bit, and the diplomatic jargon and niceties fall away. But, from what we have seen so far, the overall policy objectives seem to align rather closely with what officials say in public.

Not so in the Middle East, where the cables confirm some of the worst fears of the region's many conspiracy theorists. Shock of shocks, Iran's Arab neighbors fear Tehran much more than they fear Israel. And, horror of horrors, a number of Arab countries get along with Israel much better than they claim.

The WikiLeaks documents detail dozens of meetings in which Arab leaders urge Washington to take military action against Iran's nuclear program. This comes as absolutely no surprise to anyone who follows the region closely or who has talked to people in the Arab world. Arab leaders have carefully avoided speaking out against Iran's nuclear program, or about Tehran's aims to dominate the region, or its support for terrorist organizations.

In private, however, all of these fears emerge clearly and urgently. While Arab leaders frequently declare Israel is the main threat to the region, in private they express no such concern. Instead, there's the King of Saudi Arabia demanding that Washington "cut off the head of the snake," a wish repeated frequently by his Arab neighbors.

We have often heard Israel describe Iran as an existential threat. But never before did we have a record of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi calling Iran the "primary external threat" to his country, nothing less than an "existential" threat.

Arab leaders express certainty that Iran seeks nuclear weapons—and more. Oman's top military commander warns of Tehran's "expansionist ideological desires," and a long series of Arab leaders complain about Tehran's support for terrorist organizations and its meddling in their countries' affairs. Their conclusion, in the words of Bahrain's King Hamad: Iran "must be stopped."

Surprisingly, the WikiLeaks cables show one Middle Eastern leader making a strong argument for using economic sanctions against Iran. None other than Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu argues forcefully for using stringent sanctions before trying anything else, saying the sanctions actually have a chance of bringing down the regime. Shock of shocks, that's exactly what the prime minister has been saying in public. How confusing.

It seems democratic governments are more truthful than their undemocratic counterparts. Another shocker.

I doubt that Arab leaders have fooled many of their own people with their duplicitous remarks, although in other countries, far from the Middle East, some may take their public words at face value.

At home, the unelected Arab regimes fear their people. So, they try to say what they think the people want to hear. That's why they prefer to act as if nothing is more important to them than the Palestinian cause. But Iran is what keeps them awake at night, much as it does Israelis. It's hardly a surprise, then, that they secretly have less-than-terrible relations.

One of the documents describes a "good personal relationship" between then-Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah Ibn Zayed, and it refers to secret long-standing conversations between Israel's then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the UAE. In fact, there's evidence of friendly interaction between Israel and most Arab countries in the Persian Gulf, complete with talks between Saudi Arabia and Meir Dagan, the head of Israel's secret service, the Mossad.

Now that the yawning gap between what Arab leaders' public and private priorities and actions has been uncovered, the question is what will happen next.

They could come clean and openly tell the truth, openly challenge Iran, openly befriend Israel. Or, they might stop all contact with Israel, and retrench on their requests to the United States regarding Iran, apologizing to the Islamic Republic and mending fences with the regime they fear will soon become the most powerful in the region.

There's another route. They might deny it all, say the WikiLeaks documents are false, maybe claim they were planted by the CIA or the Mossad, swear they never met an Israeli they didn't hate and never had a negative thought about Iran. They could, horror of horrors, continue to lie.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Outside looking in



By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., or NMPASI.

The problem with being on the outside looking in is something akin to being a backseat driver. In the case of the inner workings of the CNMI government and the entrenched powers that be, it's more like being the passenger of a bratty teenager with a newly printed driver's permit. He knows full well the rules of the road, but doesn't want to hear them from you and takes every opportunity to bend them just because he can. At least that's how it feels. And despite the fact that the drivers hold so many of our lives in the palm of their hands, all we ever really do is grab a hold of the "oh-crap" handle and brace ourselves for what may come. Such is life for so many of our public servants at the hands of a pseudo-prestigious few.

But, this is not a piece about looking in from the outside. Rather it's about sitting in the driver's seat, not just for the runaway Mac trucks mind you, but also for the little sedans driving along the same roads in the same traffic jams as everyone else—microcosms, if you will, of the bigger picture. Let's call this a piece about the little cars that woulda, coulda, shoulda.

Metaphor-speak aside, this is to share a few real-life lessons (some of which were learned the hard way) from a little known not-for-profit agency, the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., or NMPASI, the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities. In support of its mission *to protect the civil, legal, and human interests of individuals with disabilities*, NMPASI successfully administers the influx of a sizable, yearly chunk of federal funds amidst the pileup of annual funding in various other federal and local taxpayer programs for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Given the opportunity to sit at the helm of any type of taxpayer program, one would, could and should do well to be mindful of and commit to some standard rules of the road as follows [this is not an exhaustive list]:

(1) Secret for Success: The simplest, most important, secret for success in managing and/or administering taxpayer funds is that *there can't be any secrets*; an open, transparent government actually means open and transparent;

(2) Shh…show me the money: If you're looking to do something with the money, but can only whisper it to a certain few or you're afraid to talk about it openly with everyone and anyone, you probably shouldn't do it. Avoid aligning your intent with lining your pockets;

(3) Position of Authority: Holding the wheel is not synonymous to owning it—get over yourself! You are no more important than the least important person on your crew and you are far more beholden to your stakeholders than they are to you;

(4) Purpose: When you receive money for one purpose don't spend it on another. More particularly, don't receive taxpayer money and dole it out to people like it's something from the kindness of your heart—it's not your money. If people wanted you to give out their money free-willy-nilly like, then they'd pay taxes to fund charities. The money you receive is for a job that the people need done, not to campaign for "thy will be done"; and

(5) Self-Service: The main, often lost, point of public service is that it's one of service to others, not a service for one's self. We achieve that by putting our self-interests aside and keeping our sights focused on the interests of and benefits to others whether that be the people who work for you or the constituency of people for whom you work.

The thing of it is, each of us can operate our respective programs however we chose, but like any driver, all of our actions have a direct impact on everyone else's use of the road. And like the blood running through our veins, we need to keep our island's traffic flowing: slow down, buckle up and yield to the right of way.

For more tips on how to successfully manage taxpayer/grant funds or on the programs being administered by NMPASI, please feel free to call the office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us on-line via ww.nmpasi.com.

Send North Korea a message



By MICHAEL MAZZA
Los Angeles Times

Michael Mazza is a senior research associate in foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

North Korea's string of provocations over the last nine months calls into question America's decisions over the last decade on the number and positioning of ground forces in the Asia-Pacific region. Though Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates insists that we must focus on winning the wars we are in, Pyongyang's repeated acts of aggression should remind us that we cannot be unprepared for the war that may be just around the corner.

War on the Korean peninsula is not a distant possibility. South Korea has reacted with noble restraint to the torpedoing of the warship Cheonan in March and to last week's shelling of Yeonpyeong island. But eventually, Seoul will choose to retaliate forcefully. The South Korean response will not necessarily lead to all-out war, but if China does not restrain its North Korean ally, a war that no one wants will become much more likely. The North's next deliberate attack on South Korean civilians could well be its last.

The best way to avoid a new Korean War is to successfully deter future North Korean provocations. Although the just-concluded naval exercises in the Yellow Sea sent an important message of allied resolve to Pyongyang, previous changes to U.S. force deployment in the region have had the opposite effect.

Early in the last decade, the U.S. Army had 27,500 soldiers stationed in South Korea. That number now stands at under 20,000. The majority of the forces redeployed from the peninsula have been combat troops. In other words, infantry, armor and artillery have been permanently removed from South Korea during a time in which Pyongyang has been vigorously developing nuclear weapons and slowly pushing its estranged southern neighbor toward war. Removing U.S. troops from harm's way—even though that was not the reason for the redeployment—is no way to demonstrate steadfastness in the face of a determined foe. Deterrence has suffered as a result.

Just as worrying as Army reductions on the peninsula is the U.S.-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation. This provides for the relocation, to be completed by 2014, of 8,000 U.S. Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa to Guam. Kim Jong Il will be happy to see these Marines move more distant from his country's shores and will certainly appreciate the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force's necessarily diminished capacity to react rapidly to a crisis in Northeast Asia.

The road map should be scrapped. Political obstacles will be difficult to surmount, but ongoing North Korean belligerency could ease the way. The Marine Corps' presence on Okinawa should remain at its present strength. Moreover, force planners should investigate the feasibility of relocating elements of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, now headquartered at Camp Pendleton, to newly constructed facilities on Guam. Having 8,000 more Marines in-theater provides 8,000 more reasons for Kim to think twice about provoking America's South Korean ally.

The Army footprint in South Korea should likewise be increased to at least its level in the early years of the last decade. The United States cannot deter a war if it is not prepared to fight and win one. With fewer than 20,000 soldiers on the peninsula, America is ill-prepared for such a conflict, even if it lets South Korean forces do the heavy lifting during what could be an arduous slog to the Yalu River. Should Beijing decide to intervene to ensure that allied forces never reach the Yalu, the shortsightedness and irresponsibility of U.S. force deployment decisions over the last decade will be borne out.

The potential for a conventional war on the Korean peninsula is an unfortunate reality. That American forces are not properly postured to fight in a renewed Korean War makes such a conflict more likely to occur and less likely to end quickly. There are, of course, monetary and political costs in the United States, Japan and South Korea for increasing troop presence on the peninsula and for canceling plans to relocate Marines from Okinawa. But the military and civilian casualties that would be averted if North Korea is successfully deterred from further aggression—or, should deterrence fail, if the allies achieve a quick victory in an unwanted war—should be worth the cost in dollars and political capital.

In order to avoid the war that nobody wants, U.S. forces must be prepared to fight and win.

April 11, 1954: A date that will live in monotony

By DANIEL MCGROARTY
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

All hail the march of science. The cure for cancer or even the common cold eludes us, but we can now say definitively that we know the date of the Most Boring Day ever:

Sunday, April 11, 1954.

That's the date that popped out after computer experts from the United Kingdom's University of Cambridge fed 300 million digital snippets of world events, weighed for interest and importance, into a computer program called True Knowledge. In the United States, that day in history saw Dwight Eisenhower tapping putts in the Oval Office, Bob Hope big at the box office, and Perry Como topping the pop charts (Bill Haley and the Comets were due into the recording studio Monday, April 12, 1954, to put "Rock Around the Clock" on vinyl—but who knew?): Nothing to raise a pulse or disturb a good afternoon nap.

Not that boring is bad. For generations of Americans yet living, April 11, 1954, was apparently nothing like the exhilarating days of June 6, 1944, (the morning of the D-Day landing at Normandy), or Oct. 28, 1962, (the 13th day of the Cuban Missile Crisis), or a different 11th, in September 2001. When we look at the world-historical events that get out hearts racing, excitement is overrated—and boredom gets a bad rap.

And yet, examined from a more intimate angle, the whole scientific exercise demonstrates what we might call the relativity of boredom. Across the United States, 11,104 people died on April 11, 1954—an average taken from the U.S. Statistical Abstract/1954—some of them, it's safe to imagine, suddenly and violently. It doesn't take extraordinary empathy to posit that April 11 was not boring for them, or for the loved ones they left behind. That same day across the country, 11,172 new babies came caterwauling into the world, with a nearly matching number of exhausted and excited parents for whom the word boring will never define that day. It's a helpful reminder that we live our lives in the singular, not the aggregate. Mass emotions are no match for the intensity of the small world that is each life.

But science welcomes skepticism, so, with a nod to the Cambridge compu-geeks, I used the most powerful tool at my disposal—Google—and poked around for some things that happened April 11, 1954, that would prove the Arbiters of Boredom wrong. I learned that on April 11, 1954, the New York Yankees acquired Enos Slaughter from the St. Louis Cardinals for four minor leaguers, and Slaughter went on to lead the Yankees to a 103-win season. Then again, when your "This Day in History" entry is a reference to a pro baseball trade, maybe we didn't need a computer to figure out it was the Most Boring Day after all.

The bad news is that—for the more than 200 million currently breathing Americans not yet born on April 11, 1954—we missed it. After living through the assassinations of JFK, MLK, RFK and John Lennon, after enduring the crash of the Challenger, Wall Street and our 401(k)s, after witnessing natural calamities like Katrina and the debut of Lady Gaga—haven't we earned our shot at epic boredom?

So here's a new project for the computer geniuses who pinned down History's Most Boring Day: Please sit down at the keyboard, feed in all the mayhem swirling around us at the moment—the wars, recession, terror plots and nuclear madmen—calibrate for the horrors history tells us are yet to come, and ask, "When will we see another day of unrelieved boredom?" When you get your answer, try to give us 24 hours' notice, so we can all enjoy what April 11, 1954, must have felt like.

Daniel McGroarty, principal of Carmot Strategic Group, an issues management firm in Washington, served in senior positions in the White House and at the Department of Defense. Readers may send him e-mail at dmcg@carmotsg.com.

CONGRESS

From Page 10

As one service member told military researchers: "Gays and lesbians have been serving in the Armed Forces since the inception of our country... They love this country just as much as heterosexuals." This policy doesn't serve our national interests. It's time for gay Americans to be allowed to serve openly.

■ And finally, the Senate should adopt the Dream Act, which allows the children of undocumented workers to become legal residents if they attend college or serve in the U.S. military.

The act is in the best interests of America and should be passed.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with solated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

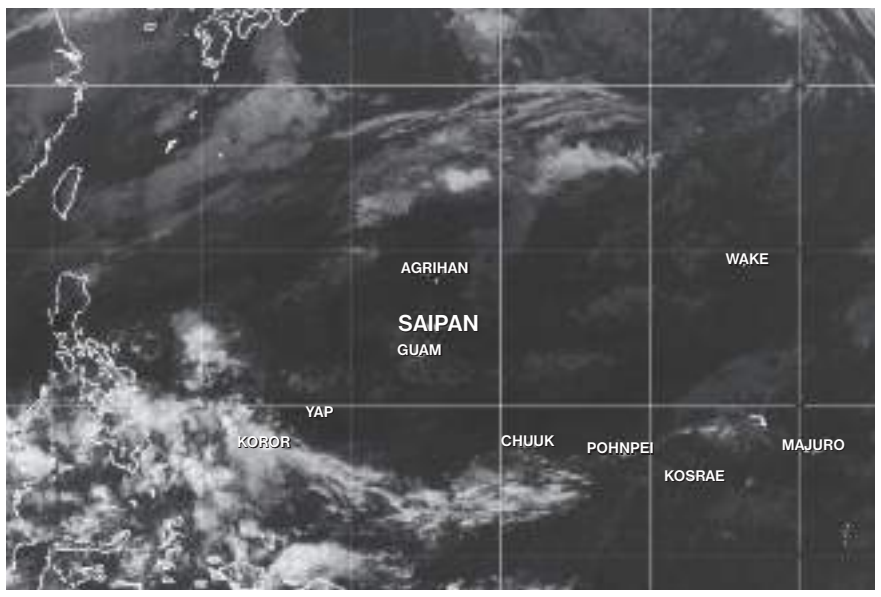
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼25
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼59
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81	▼68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲32	▼27
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲82	▼71
Miami	Sunny	▲70	▼40
New York	Flurries	▲36	▼28
Osaka	Showers	▲52	▼41
Paris	Snow	▲33	▼32
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Salem	Showers	▲50	▼43
San Francisco	Showers	▲62	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲41	▼30
Tokyo	Rain	▲57	▼45
Washington, DC	Flurries	▲40	▼29

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough curves northwestward from EQ129E to end near the island of Samar in the Philippines. Surface winds converging east of the trough axis are helping to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau but south of Yap or south of a line from 10N130E to 9N138E to 5N141E extending to the equator. A shear line heads southwestward from 25N156E to near Minami Tori Shima at 24N154E to 21N138E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. A quasi-stationary trade-wind trough is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk from 144E to 154E between 3N and 6N. Another weak westward moving surface trough is producing mostly scattered showers in the western Marshalls near Kwajalein from 164E to 168E between 7N and 11N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:39 AM	7:09 PM
Wednesday	8:31 AM	8:05 PM
Thursday	9:18 AM	8:59 PM
Friday	10:00 AM	9:49 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM	9:49 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
CO9313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM
CO9313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
CO9603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
CO9603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
CO9596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
CO890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/CO596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Economy is making steady gains despite weak hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy is starting to fire on almost every cylinder these days but the one that matters most: Job creation.

Factories are busier. Incomes are rising. Autos are selling. The holiday shopping season is shaping up as the best in four years. Stock prices are surging.

And many analysts are raising their forecasts for the economy's growth. Goldman Sachs, for instance, just revised its gloomy prediction of a 2 percent increase in gross domestic product in 2011 to 2.7 percent and forecast 3.6 percent growth for 2012.

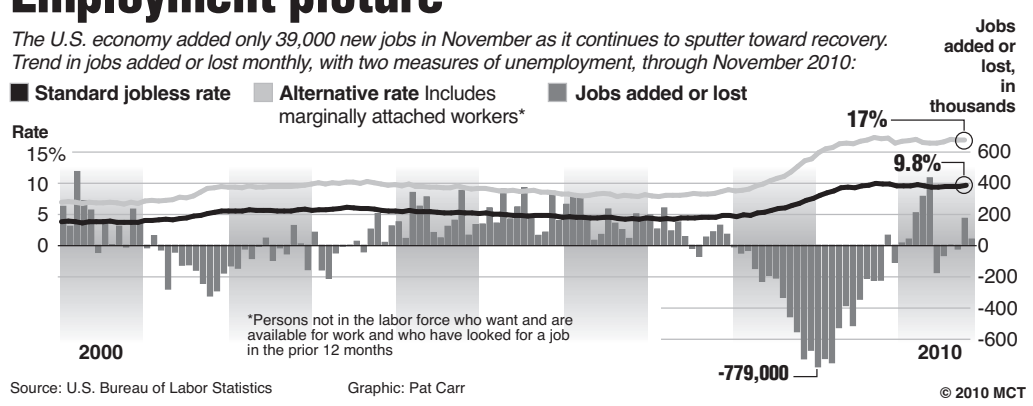
"The upward momentum has more traction this time," says James O'Sullivan, chief economist at MF Global.

If only every major pillar of the economy were faring so well.

Despite weeks of brighter economic news, employers still aren't hiring freely. The economy added a net total of just 39,000 jobs in November, the government said Friday.

That's far too few even to stabilize the unemployment rate, which rose from 9.6 percent in October to 9.8 percent last month. Unemployment is widely expected to stay above 9 percent through next year, in part because of the still-depressed real estate industry.

Job creation ultimately drives the economy, and it remains the most significant weak link.



The meager job gains for November confounded economists. They'd expected net job growth to reach 145,000 and for the unemployment rate to stay at 9.6 percent.

Some economists dismissed the November data as a technical fluke, a result of the government's difficulty in adjusting the figures for seasonal factors. They think the number will be revised up later.

Others saw the jobs report as a reminder that the economy is still struggling to emerge from an epic financial crisis that choked off credit, stifled spending and escalated a "normal" recession into the worst in 70 years. The depth of the financial crisis means the recovery will proceed more slowly than many had hoped or expected, they say.

"The fits and starts are not surprising," says Jack Kleinhenz, chief economist at the National Retail Federation. "We've had a unique recession and therefore a unique recovery."

In the view of most economists, the direction of the overall economy remains positive—even if its pace feels agonizingly slow. The latest unemployment report was a setback, but likely a temporary one, they say.

"Which are you going to believe," O'Sullivan asks, "one month of payrolls or all the other data?"

Bernanke defends bond buys, citing at-risk economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is stepping up his defense of the Fed's $600 billion Treasury bond-purchase plan, saying the economy is still struggling to become "self-sustaining" without government help.

In a taped interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday night, Bernanke also argued that Congress shouldn't cut spending or boost taxes given how fragile the economy remains.

The Fed chairman said he thinks another recession is unlikely. But he warned that the economy could suffer a slowdown if persistently high unemployment dampens consumer spending.

The interview is part of a broad counteroffensive Bernanke has been waging against critics of the bond purchase plan the Fed announced Nov. 3. The purchases are intended to lower long-term interest rates, lift stock prices and encourage more spending to boost the economy.

Critics, from Republicans in Congress to some officials within the Fed, say they fear the Fed's intervention could spur inflation and speculative buying on Wall Street while doing little to aid the economy.

On other issues in the "60 Minutes" interview, Bernanke:

■ Argued that unemployment would have been far higher—"something like it was in the Depression, 25 percent"—had the Fed not provided extraordinary aid to Wall Street firms, banks and other companies to ease a credit crisis.

■ Said it could take four or five more years for unemployment, now at 9.8 percent, to fall to a historically normal 5 percent or 6 percent.

■ Reiterated that the Fed is prepared to buy even more than $600 billion in Treasury bonds over the next eight months, should it decide the economy needs the fuel of even lower interest rates.

■ Argued that the risk of inflation is overblown. Bernanke said he's "100 percent" confident the Fed will be able to ward off inflation, when the time is right, by raising interest rates and unwinding its stimulative programs.

■ Called the risk of deflation—a prolonged drop in prices, wages and the values of homes and stocks—"pretty low." He said the likelihood would have been greater if the Fed weren't maintaining super-low interest rates.

■ Urged Congress to improve the nation's tax code "by closing loopholes and lowering rates" for individuals and companies. He said doing so would create greater incentives for people to invest.



AP

In this Nov. 23, 2010 photo, Jay Bashant, of Buckyeye, Ariz., looks over job ads at the Maricopa County Workforce Connections job fair, in Phoenix. The nation's unemployment rate climbed to 9.8 percent in November, a seven-month high, as hiring slowed.

After the tax fight, parties move to compromise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Their political options limited, Democrats and Republicans appeared to unite Sunday behind the outlines of an economic package that would temporarily extend expiring tax rates to all taxpayers as well as jobless benefits for millions of Americans.

Differences remained over details, and some Democrats continued to object to any plan that would continue Bush-era tax rates at the highest income levels.

Without action, however, Congress faced the prospect of letting the tax rates revert to higher pre-2001 and 2003 levels, and delivering a tax hike to all taxpayers. Negotiations between the Obama administration and a bipartisan group of lawmakers centered on a two-year extension of current rates.

At the same time, Friday's jump in the unemployment rate to 9.8 percent added pressure on Republicans to accede to President Barack Obama's demand that Congress extend unemployment insurance for a year. A deal could be reached this week.

"I think most folks believe the recipe would include at least an extension of unemployment benefits for those who are unemployed and an extension of all of the tax rates for all Americans for some period of time," said Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the Senate's Republican negotiator in tax talks between lawmakers and the Obama administration.

"Without unemployment benefits being extended, personally, this is a nonstarter," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the second-ranking member of the Senate Democratic leadership.

Republicans have insisted that any extension of jobless aid be paid for with cuts elsewhere in the federal budget. The White House opposes that, saying such cuts are economically damaging during a weak recovery. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell on Sunday said that "all of those discussions are still under way."

But Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said Republicans would likely cede that point to the Democrats.

"Let's take care of the unemployment compensation even if it isn't ... backed up by real finances," Hatch said. "We've got to do it. So let's do it. But that ought to be it."

About 2 million unemployed workers will run out of benefits this month if they are not renewed, and the administration estimates 7 million will be affected if they are not extended for a year.

The White House, however, also wants to include renewal of several other tax provisions that are expiring. They include a tax credit for lower- and middle-class wage earners, even if they don't make enough to pay the government, and breaks to offset college tuition and breaks for companies that hire the unemployed.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Visited porn? Web browser flaw secretly bares all

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Dozens of websites have been secretly harvesting lists of places that their users previously visited online, everything from news articles to bank sites to pornography, a team of computer scientists found. The information is valuable for con artists to learn more about their targets and send them personalized attacks. It also allows e-commerce companies to adjust ads or prices—for instance, if the site knows you've just come from a competitor that is offering a lower price. Although passwords aren't at risk, in harvesting a detailed list of where you've been online, sites can create thorough profiles on its users. The technique the University of California, San Diego researchers investigated is called "history sniffing" and is a result of the way browsers interact with websites and record where they've been. A few lines of programming code are all a site needs to pull it off.

Pfizer CEO Kindler, 55, steps down unexpectedly

Jeffrey B. Kindler, the CEO of the world's biggest drugmaker, stepped down Sunday unexpectedly—after less than five years heading Pfizer Inc., a period in which he reorganized most of the company's operations and made an imprint on the industry. His successor, Ian Read, who has run Pfizer's worldwide pharmaceutical operations since 2006, takes over immediately. Kindler, a lawyer who joined Pfizer in 2002, revamped its sprawling pharmaceutical sales operation into five divisions that gave their leaders more control and responsibility. Among other successes, that significantly boosted revenue in emerging markets and stabilized sales of older medicines hit by generic competition in the wealthiest countries by promoting them heavily elsewhere. ***(AP)***

Madoff trustee sues HSBC for $9B in NY court

NEW YORK (AP)—HSBC prolonged disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's ability to burn investors by "engineering a labyrinth" of international sources of funding for his epic Ponzi scheme, a court-appointed trustee alleged Sunday. Trustee Irving Picard announced a lawsuit in federal bankruptcy court in Manhattan that seeks to recover $9 billion in illicit earnings and damages from the Britain-based bank. The suit alleges that HSBC ignored warnings from its own accountants that Madoff's phenomenal investment record was suspect.

Nation

Rough seas for ship being towed in Bering Sea

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A cargo ship that broke down in Alaska's Aleutian Islands while carrying canola seeds and nearly a half-million gallons of fuel oil continued its slow journey to a safe harbor Sunday as a tug boat pulled it through rough seas and up to 25-foot waves.

The 738-foot *Golden Seas* with 20 crew members aboard was expected to reach Dutch Harbor, 275 miles away, sometime Tuesday.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Dana Warr said the tug boat captain decided to take a longer route south of the island chain where seas were somewhat less rough. The course change was expected to add about 20 to 30 hours to the trip.

The 18,000-horsepower *Tor Viking II* began its tow of the cargo ship late Saturday, a few hours after they rendezvoused in the Bering Sea, about 45 miles north of Atka Island.

Warr said Sunday evening the vessels were dealing with waves between 20 and 25 feet, despite predictions that the rough seas would abate.

"We thought it would diminish more than it has," Warr said.

The towing operation involved attaching a 2,400-foot line from the towing vessel to the ship. The long line was helping absorb the shock of the waves hitting the vessel as it was being towed, he said.

Once the ship reaches Dutch Harbor, two tugs will help maneuver it into Captain's Bay, where it will anchor and undergo repairs.

The ship developed engine trouble in strong winds and rough seas Friday that caused it to drift toward Atka Island, about 1,300 miles southwest of Anchorage.

Responders said the vessel, which is managed by Allseas Marine, based in Athens, Greece, lost its turbo charger. That left it without enough power to overcome 29-foot seas and winds blowing at 45 mph.

Petty Officer David Mosley said the Liberia-flagged ship is carrying more than 457,500 gallons of fuel oil, nearly 12,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 10,000 gallons of lube oil.

The ship is en route from Vancouver, Canada, to the United Arab Emirates, the Coast Guard said.



AP

The tug *Tor Viking II* is observed by an Air Station Kodiak HC-130 Hercules crew moving through 20 foot seas and 46 mph winds 48 miles from the 738-foot cargo vessel *Golden Seas* in the Bering Sea Saturday Dec. 4, 2010.

Sailor remembers Pearl Harbor attack 69 years ago

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—The morning of Dec. 7, 1941, Yeoman 2nd Class Durrell Conner was wrapping Christmas presents aboard the USS California when he heard a commotion. Peering through a porthole of the battleship, the 23-year-old saw an airplane approaching low.

"He dropped something, and as he banked away I saw the red emblem of the Japanese on his wings so I knew we were under attack," Conner said. "He dropped the torpedo that struck the ship right below where I was standing."

The battleship shook like an earthquake, and the cryptographer rushed to his battle station where he coded and decoded messages for the California's commander. Since no messages were coming in, he joined a chain passing ammunition to Marines and sailors firing guns on the deck.

Another Japanese plane dropped a 500-pound bomb on the California, sinking the ship. The vessel lost nearly 100 of its 1,800 officers and crew.

On Tuesday, Conner plans to return to Pearl Harbor along with about 120 other survivors for a ceremony in remembrance of those who died in the Japanese attack 69 years ago. About 580 family and friends are due to join them, as are several hundred members of the public.

The Navy and the National Park Service are jointly hosting the event at a grassy site across the harbor from the sunken hull of the USS Arizona, where 1,177 lives were lost. In all, some 2,400 sailors, Marines and soldiers were killed in the attack.

Conner, 92, attended the annual remembrance for the first time last year with his daughter.

He so enjoyed the displays of patriotism and tributes—including the sailors who lined the deck of the USS Lake Erie guided missile cruiser as it rendered honors to the Arizona—that he's coming back with his wife, four daughters and their husbands, and several grandchildren.

"The patriotic feeling that everybody had—it was just wonderful," Conner said. "I decided from then on, if I physically would be able, I would be there every year."

He reckons he'll keep coming back for a while.

"I play golf three times a week. I hope to be around for another five or 10 years," Conner said in a telephone interview from his home in Sun City, Calif.

This year, Conner will represent the California by laying a wreath for his fallen shipmates during the ceremony.

"It's really quite an honor," he said.

Conner, who made a career in the Navy after the war, said he probably wasn't as surprised by the Sunday morning assault as some of his fellow sailors because he had recently decoded a message from Washington telling his ship to be on the alert for a sneak attack.

His commanders, though, didn't envision they'd be fighting airplanes. They expected Japanese in Hawaii to somehow sabotage them—something that never happened.

"Everyday I was wondering 'Well is it going to be today?'—kind of laughing because I thought they were being overcautious," Conner said.

He recalled simply getting to work when the attack began.

"I just took it in stride, tried to do what was asked of me," said Conner.

At about 10 o'clock, Conner noticed the Stars and Stripes wasn't flying above the California because the assault began just as Marines usually raised the colors at 8 a.m. He saw the Marines had dropped the flag on the deck as they rushed to return fire.

So Conner and a seaman raised the flag, giving troops a morale boost as they struggled to fight back and save the wounded while battleships burned and sank.



AP

This Dec. 7, 1941 file photo provided by the Dept. of Defense shows the USS California, right, after being struck by two battleships and two big bombs during a Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

Doctors testing warm, beating hearts in transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Andrea Ybarra's donated heart was beating rhythmically by the time she awoke from the grogginess of her surgery.

Lub-dub. Lub-dub. Lub-dub. In fact, it was warm and pumping even before doctors transplanted it.

Ybarra belongs to a small group of people who have had a "beating heart" transplant, an experimental operation that's mostly been done in Europe. The donor heart is placed into a special box that feeds it blood and keeps it warm and ticking outside the body.

"I felt peaceful when I woke up. I wasn't scared," recalled the 40-year-old from a Los Angeles suburb who suffers from lupus. "It felt like the heart was a part of me all the time."

Despite advances in heart transplantation, the way hearts are moved around the United States and most places remains low-tech.

A team of doctors and organ recovery specialists stuffs an off-the-shelf picnic cooler with ice and jets off at odd hours to a donor hospital where a heart from a brain-dead patient awaits. They inject a chemical to stop the organ and preserve it in the ice chest for the trip home.

Once a heart is harvested, it's a race against time. A heart can stay fresh in the cooler for 4 to 6 hours before it starts to deteriorate. Because of this constraint, doctors can't travel too far to heart-hunt.

It's been done this way for more than four decades, ever since the first U.S. heart transplant was performed on Dec. 6, 1967.

Research has shown that the longer it takes to remove a heart and transplant it, the greater the patient's chance of death or heart disease.

But what if a heart could beat on its own after removal from a cadaver?

It may sound a bit macabre, more like an Edgar Allan Poe story. The new high-tech heart box circulates blood from the donor to the heart so that it continues throbbing while in transit from hospital to hospital.

Based on some success overseas, the University of California, Los Angeles is currently heading an experiment along with several other schools that compares the safety and effectiveness of the new preservation method versus the standard cooler.

If the new technology succeeds in preserving hearts longer, it could change the field, experts say.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ala. police search for 2nd day for missing kids

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Police have searched a second day for two young Alabama children missing since the summer and whose father has said are dead and buried. Mobile Police Department spokesman Christopher Levy said officers searched Sunday in an area west of Citronelle in mostly rural northwest Mobile County and found no sign of 5-year-old Natalie DeBlase or 3-year-old Chase DeBlase. On Saturday, officers searched a wooded area near Vancleave, Miss., about 55 miles west of Mobile. Levy said police searched the two areas after interviews with the father of the children, John DeBlase. He was arrested Friday and charged with child abuse and corpse abuse. He told police he had buried the bodies of his children.

Unabomber's Montana land for sale; 'very secluded'

LINCOLN, Mont. (AP)—A 1.4-acre parcel of land in western Montana that was once owned by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski is on the market for $69,500. The listing—by John Pistelak Realty of Lincoln—offers potential buyers a chance to own a piece of "infamous U.S. history." "This is a one of a kind property and is obviously very secluded," the listing says. It doesn't say who owns the property. The forested land, which had been listed at $154,500, does not have electricity or running water. Photos posted with the online listing show tall trees, chain-link fences topped by barbed wire and a tree with "FBI" carved into it, though it's not clear why. Pistelak said Friday he couldn't immediately comment on the listing, and he didn't return phone messages on Sunday.

Texas judge to hold hearing on death penalty law

HOUSTON (AP)—In the deeply Republican state that has executed more convicts than any other and the county that has sent the most to death row, an unusual legal proceeding will begin this week: A Democratic judge will hold a lengthy hearing on the constitutionality of the death penalty in Texas. State District Judge Kevin Fine surprised many Texans last spring when he granted what is usually a routine and typically rejected defense motion and ruled the death penalty unconstitutional. His ruling came in the case of John Edward Green Jr., who is awaiting trial on charges he fatally shot a Houston woman and wounded her sister during a June 2008 robbery.

Asia

S. Korea starts naval firing drills amid tension

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean troops pushed ahead with naval firing drills Monday, a day after North Korea warned such exercises would aggravate already high tensions between the rivals following the North's deadly shelling last month of a front-line South Korean island.

South Korea's army began firing artillery into the waters off the divided Korean peninsula as part of weeklong drills set to continue thorough Sunday, South Korean army and Joint Chiefs of Staff officers said.

The officers, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing office rules, said the drills were to take place at nearly 30 sites, but none of Monday's exercises were near the disputed western sea border between the Koreas where last month's attack took place. The navy said warships were to join the drills later this week.

South Korea's military and Defense Ministry declined to provide further details on the drills.

Tensions have soared since Nov. 23, when North Korea rained shells on Yeonpyeong Island, killing four South Koreans, including two civilians. The North said South Korea first fired artillery toward its territorial waters. South Korea says it fired shells southward, not toward North Korea, as part of routine exercises.

Deadly skirmishes occur periodically along the disputed maritime border, but the latest assault on Yeonpyeong, home to both fishing communities and military bases, was the North's first to target a civilian area since the 1950-53 Korean War.

On Sunday, North Korea lashed out at South Korea for causing "uncontrollable, extreme" tension on the peninsula, pointing to the planned firing drills and what it called South Korea's "frantic provocations."

"The South Korean puppet group, far from drawing a lesson from the deserved punishment it faced for its reckless firing of shells into the territorial waters of the (North Korea) side around Yeonpyeong Island, is getting more frantic in military provocations and war moves," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

A KCNA dispatch warned that a war between the Koreas would disturb regional peace and security.

South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin said last week that jets would bomb the North if it stages another attack. Kim took office Saturday, replacing a predecessor who resigned amid criticism that South Korea's response to the shelling was too slow and weak.

Despite the recent attack, the Defense Ministry believes it's unlikely North Korea would launch a full-scale war because it could not wage a conflict for long and because of South Korea's solid military alliance with the United States, Yonhap news agency reported Sunday citing the military.

The Yeonpyeong attack came eight months after the sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on a North Korean torpedo attack—also near the maritime border. Forty-six sailors were killed. North Korea has vehemently denied involvement.

The Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, technically leaving the two countries still at war. The U.S. stations 28,500 troops in South Korea to deter potential aggression from North Korea.



AP

A South Korean protester participates in a rally against the South Korean Navy's exercises as an army soldier stands guard in front of the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010.

Thailand marks 83rd birthday of revered king

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand on Sunday marked the 83rd birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, but elaborate celebrations could not mask concern over his health and the future of the royal institution.

In his annual birthday speech, the king sounded what has become a routine, general call for unity and hard work to keep the country happy and prosperous in the face of the sometimes violent political conflict it has endured in recent years.

Thousands of flag-waving citizens cheered his car's journey to the ceremonial Grand Palace from Siriraj Hospital, where he was admitted in September 2009 with a lung inflammation. There has been no detailed explanation of his extended hospitalization. The king's health is a matter of immense public concern, both because he is widely admired and because he is regarded as a unifying figure in times of national crisis.

Shouts of "Long live the king" rang out as he entered the hospital lobby in a motorized wheelchair and headed to board a van, in which Queen Sirikit also sat.

On sidewalks close to the hospital, the crowd was five or six deep, with those immediately along the street kneeling reverentially. Police and soldiers lined the entire route for the 12-minute journey through Bangkok.



AP

A Thai man raises a portrait of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej while waiting to get a glimpse of the King at Siriraj Hospital Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Massive ceremonies were held later in the day, as on past occasions honoring the king. They included a candle-lighting show of devotion led by the prime minister, fireworks, the release of thousands of small hot-air balloons and a nighttime boat procession on Bangkok's Chao Phraya river.

Speaking briefly in a slow and rasping voice to dignitaries at the Grand Palace, the king urged people to be clear about their duties and carry them out to the best of their ability.

He called for them to perform "justly and firmly, doing your duties correctly in an appropriate manner, for the security of the country and its benefit." The annual birthday speech has for several years been the main forum for the king to present his ideas directly to the public.

Bhumibol's near-disappearance from public life has coincided with a period of political instability after a 2006 military coup against Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra polarized the country. The king has been unable or unwilling to play his traditional mediating role to ease the conflict.

Defenders of the status quo, including the current government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, say the monarchy is under attack by radicals who wish to undermine its authority and prestige, or even abolish it. While serious opponents of the royal institution are a tiny minority—and liable to long jail terms if they speak publicly—the past few years have seen unprecedented questioning of the monarchy.

Traditionally, the palace managed to stay aloof from the parry and thrust of politics, its influence exercised behind the scenes or only in extreme cases where a crisis posed an immediate threat to the kingdom's peace and stability.

However, the 2006 coup ousting Thaksin opened a political and social schism that has still not healed. Thaksin had been popularly elected in landslide victories, but his critics accused him of corruption and disrespect to the crown.

Australia says Assange entitled to consular help

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia would give consular help to WikiLeaks' founder if he is arrested abroad, the government said Monday.

However, the administration again condemned WikiLeaks' publication of secret U.S. diplomatic documents, saying doing so threatens the security of the United States and its allies.

Attorney General Robert McClelland said WikiLeaks was grossly irresponsible for publishing the documents because they could identify informants.

"Free speech is one thing, we all respect that, but we also respect the freedoms and the rights of people to live without fear," McClelland told reporters.

He said that as an Australian citizen, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is entitled to return to his home country and receive consular help from Australian officials if he is arrested overseas.

But Australia is also obligated to help an international criminal investigation into Assange's activities, McClelland said.

Australia has said it is assisting U.S. authorities in an investigation into WikiLeaks, and is also examining whether the site has broken any Australian laws by publishing restricted information.

Assange, who is in Britain, is also wanted for questioning in Sweden over allegations including rape and sexual molestation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine leader says media ruining his love life

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' bachelor president has appealed for privacy, saying journalists' prying eyes are ruining his love life. President Benigno Aquino III has been linked to several women since he broke up with girlfriend Shalani Soledad in October. One was his stylist. On Friday, The Philippine Star had a front-page picture of him with a stockbroker said to be his new romantic interest. The 50-year-old Aquino says he will be spending Christmas without a date because women are scared to go out with him for fear of ending up in the newspaper headlines. He says it's difficult to woo a woman with the whole nation watching, and joked with reporters that it will "be on your conscience" if another prospective girlfriend stays away.

23 protected seals clubbed to death in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand police and conservation officials are hunting offenders who clubbed to death 23 protected fur seals, including newborn pups. Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson said Monday some of the eight bludgeoned pups were just days old when they were killed. She's "beyond appalled" over the deliberate and abhorrent attacks. Wilkinson appealed for public help to find those responsible. The attacks involved the Ohau Point seal colony on northern South Island and is north of the town of Kaikoura—an international whale-watching center.

Pakistan court issues warrants over Bhutto's death

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court has issued arrest warrants for two senior police officials accused of negligence in the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a prosecutor said Sunday. Prosecutors accuse one of the officials of failing to provide proper security for Bhutto and the other of cleaning the crime scene before evidence could be collected. Bhutto was killed in a Dec. 27, 2007, gun and suicide-bomb attack as she was leaving a rally in the garrison town of Rawalpindi, where she was campaigning for parliamentary elections just weeks after returning to the country from years in self-imposed exile.

World

On eve of talks, Iran says it's mining own uranium

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran delivered a resolute message Sunday on the eve of talks with six world powers: We're mining our own uranium now, so forget about stopping our nuclear ambitions.

The Islamic Republic said it has produced its first batch of locally mined uranium ore for enrichment, making it independent of foreign countries for a process the West fears is geared toward producing nuclear arms.

No matter the U.N. sanctions over the program, "our nuclear activities will proceed and they will witness greater achievements in the future," Iranian nuclear chief Ali Salehi told state-run Press TV.

Western officials downplayed the announcement, saying it had been expected and that Iran did not have enough ore to maintain the large-scale enrichment program that Tehran says it is building as a source of fuel for an envisaged network of nuclear reactors.

"Given that Iran's own supply of uranium is not enough for a peaceful nuclear energy program, this calls into further question Iran's intentions and raises additional concerns at a time when Iran needs to address the concerns of the international community," said Mike Hammer, spokesman of the U.S. National Security Council.

Sunday's announcement makes clear that Iran does not consider uranium enrichment to be up for discussion at the talks beginning Monday in Geneva. Tehran is determined to expand the program instead of scrapping it as the U.N. Security Council demands.

Expectations for the talks had been low even before the announcement, with Iran saying it is prepared to discuss nuclear issues only in the context of global disarmament. Officials from some of the six powers have said they would be pleased if negotiations yielded no more than agreement to meet at a later date to explore common themes.

The ultimate aim of the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany is to commit Tehran to give up enrichment because of its potential use in making nuclear arms.

The talks in Geneva—the first in over a year—are meant to lay the cornerstone for establishing trust. Tehran says it does not want atomic arms, but as it builds on its capacity to potentially make such weapons, neither Israel nor the U.S. have ruled out military action if the Islamic Republic fails to heed U.N. Security Council demands to freeze enrichment and other nuclear programs.

The talks are expected to take two days. Saeed Jalili, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, will meet with EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton, with Ashton's office saying she will act "on behalf" of the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. In fact, senior officials for those six powers will attend and do much of the talking with Tehran.

Ahead of the talks, Western officials urged Tehran to address international concerns about its nuclear activities.

Invoking possible military confrontation over Iran's nuclear defiance, British Defense Secretary Liam Fox said Saturday that the Geneva talks need to make a serious start toward resolving the issue.

"We want a negotiated solution, not a military one—but Iran needs to work with us to achieve that outcome," he said. "We will not look away or back down."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it was up to Iran to restore trust about its nuclear intentions, urging it to come to Geneva prepared to "firmly, conclusively reject the pursuit of nuclear weapons."



AP

Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, speaks with media, during a press briefing, in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010.

Mexican state will try boy accused of beheadings

CUERNAVACA, Mexico (AP)—A 14-year-old boy accused of participating in four beheadings for a Mexican drug cartel will be tried under a state juvenile law that carries a maximum of three years in prison if convicted, a judge said Sunday.

The juvenile court judge in the state of Morelos made the ruling after a daylong hearing on whether the federal government should handle the case because of the gravity of the allegations against the boy, known as "El Ponchis."

The judge said that Mexican law allows him to preside over cases involving minors facing federal charges and that the teenager will face charges of murder, organized crime and other allegations in the state of Morelos.

After the hearing, the boy was escorted from the courthouse by 15 state police officers. Dozens more state and federal police were stationed inside and outside the court building.

Authorities said they arrested El Ponchis on Thursday at an airport south of Mexico City with a 19-year-old sister. Mexican officials allege the boy was working for the Cartel of the South Pacific, a branch of the splintered Beltran Leyva gang. The sister has said they were headed for Tijuana, where they planned to cross the border and seek refuge with their stepmother in San Diego.

Many youths have been used by drug cartels, but the story of El Ponchis may be the most shocking. A YouTube video that emerged a month ago sparked talk of a child hit man—said by some to be as young as 12.

"I participated in four executions, but I did it drugged and under threat that if I didn't, they would kill me," the boy said when he was handed over to the federal prosecutor Friday.

Authorities identified the curly haired suspect only by his first name, Edgar.

Morelos Gov. Marco Adame Castillo has said the boy was born in San Diego, California, and Mexican officials were researching whether he has dual nationality. A U.S. Embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to embassy policy, said earlier that American officials had not confirmed his citizenship.

As of Sunday his citizenship status was still unclear as was the possibility of the teenager being sent to the United States.

WikiLeaks uses Swiss Web address as options narrow

GENEVA (AP)—WikiLeaks' elusive founder, his options dwindling, has turned to Switzerland's credit, postal and Internet infrastructure to keep his online trove of U.S. State Department cables afloat.

Supporters say Julian Assange is considering seeking asylum in Switzerland. He told a Spanish newspaper that he faced "hundreds of death threats," including some targeting his lawyers and children, aside from the pressure he is getting from prosecutors in the U.S. and other countries.

After a number of web companies dropped WikiLeaks, much of the site's traffic was coming through the wikileaks.ch Web address Sunday. The address is controlled by the Swiss Pirate Party, a group that formed two years ago to campaign for freedom of information. The site's main server in France went offline but it remained reachable through a Swedish server.

The site showed Assange had begun seeking donations to an account under his name through the Swiss postal system in Bern, the Swiss capital, while also using a Swiss-Icelandic credit card processing center and other accounts in Iceland and Germany. He lost a major source of revenue when the online payment service provider PayPal cut off the WikiLeaks account over the weekend.

Assange has been widely praised and criticized. Supporters view him as a savior of the media and free speech; critics vilify him for brazenly unleashing diplomatic secrets, as well as for earlier leaks involving the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell called Assange "a high-tech terrorist." He told NBC's "Meet the Press" he hopes Assange will be prosecuted for the "enormous damage" the disclosures have done to the country and to its relationship with its allies.

But even as governments put pressure on Assange, WikiLeaks lives on. The Swiss Pirate Party said Sunday that wikileaks.ch was receiving about 3,000 visitors a second.

The party also said supporters are creating "mirrors" of the WikiLeaks site on their own servers, meaning that the diplomatic cables will remain available even if WikiLeaks loses its own site.



AP

Swiss Denis Simonet, right, president of the Pirate Party, and vice president Pascal Gloor left, pose prior to a press conference in Biel, Switzerland, Friday, Dec. 3, 2010.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mediators try to intervene in Ivory Coast chaos

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—International mediators tried to intervene Sunday in Ivory Coast's growing political crisis after both candidates in the disputed election said they were now president, raising fears the country could again be divided in two. In the northern opposition stronghold of Bouake, several hundred people marched down a main boulevard Sunday afternoon, calling for incumbent Laurent Gbagbo to stand down. Villagers wielding machetes also created their own checkpoint in protest along one major road in the region. "It's important not to have violence, not to return to war—to find a peaceful solution," former South African President Thabo Mbeki said Sunday after arriving in Abidjan to try and mediate at the behest of the African Union.

More foreign fighters seen slipping back into Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Intelligence officials say foreign fighters have been slipping back into Iraq in larger numbers recently and may have been behind some of the most devastating attacks this year, reviving a threat the U.S. military believed had been almost entirely eradicated. It is impossible to verify the actual numbers of foreign insurgents entering the country. But one Middle Eastern intelligence official estimated recently that 250 came in October alone. U.S. officials say the figure is far lower, but have acknowledged an increase since August. At the same time, Iraqi officials say there has been a surge in financial aid to al-Qaida's front group in Iraq as the U.S. military prepares to leave by the end of 2011. They said it reflects fears by Arab states over the growing influence of Iran's Shiite-led government over Iraq and its Shiite-dominated government.

Chavez tells hotels to shelter flood homeless

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that he would force privately owned hotels to help shelter tens of thousands of Venezuelans who have left their homes due to floods and mudslides caused by weeks of torrential rains. "I want the tourism hotels," Chavez said during a visit to the coastal state of Miranda. He said his government would pay for flood victims to remain at the hotels until the rains subside. "We will occupy them under lease." Chavez also announced that his government would build apartments near Simon Bolivar International Airport, the country's largest and busiest airport, and other residential complexes inside El Avila National Park, a mountainous swath of land separating Caracas from the coast.

Overdrive



RELIABLE, SAFE

2010 Hyundai Santa Fe a solid family hauler

Refreshed and given new power trains for 2010, Hyundai's midsize Santa Fe sport utility vehicle offers more contemporary looks, improved fuel economy in V-6 versions, more available horsepower, a terrific warranty and a pleasant driving experience.

MCT

NUTS & BOLTS

Vehicle Tested:
Engine: 3.5-liter V-6, 276 hp.
Fuel: Regular
Transmission: Six-speed automatic, front-wheel drive
Safety: Six air bags; 4-wheel disc brakes w/antilock, stability control and brake assist; fog lamps; tire pressure warning; heated outside mirrors and windshield wiper deicing.
Place of assembly: Montgomery, Ala.
Cargo room: 34.2 cubic feet w/rear seatback up; 78.2 w/seatback down
EPA fuel economy estimates: 20 mpg city, 26 highway
Price as driven: $26,915 with freight
Bottom line: Fresher looks, new power trains, same good value.

By TOM INCANTALUPO
NEWSDAY

Refreshed and given new power trains for 2010, Hyundai's midsize Santa Fe sport utility vehicle offers more contemporary looks, improved fuel economy in V-6 versions, more available horsepower, a terrific warranty and a pleasant driving experience.

Assuming its reliability remains high, it's even more worthy than before of consideration as your family's principal vehicle—unless you want a third row of seating, which is no longer available.

The Santa Fe begins at $22,490 with freight with a newly offered 2.4-liter 175-hp four-cylinder engine and a six-speed speed stick shift. Options worth considering include a rearview camera, but it is available only as part of a "premium" package that also includes navigation, sunroof and an audio upgrade and lists for $3,200.

All-wheel-drive models start at $23,790, with the same engine but with automatic transmission.

The EPA says the V-6-powered, front-drive model with automatic transmission should get 20 miles per gallon in city driving and 26 mpg on the highway—representing a 15 percent overall improvement over its predecessor. I averaged 23.3. Given that the V-6 is so efficient, it would seem the better choice for its impressive acceleration and 3,500- pound towing capacity.

I didn't get a chance to sample a four-cylinder model, but one reviewer who did, Warren Brown of *The Washington Post*, called his tester "a snail on wheels."

Both engines were new to the Santa Fe for 2010.

A new automatic transmission has six forward speeds, versus four or five in the predecessor models, and can easily be shifted manually when you so desire.

The Santa Fe's ride is quiet, and its handling and braking are confidence-inspiring at legal and super-legal speeds. Except for a speedometer needle that could use more contrast at night from the speedo's background, I have no complaints about the tester's nicely finished interior.

The improved Santa Fe has the top federal government safety rating: five stars for protection in frontal and side-impact crashes. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety rates the Santa Fe "good" in frontal and side impacts.

Like other Hyundais, the Santa Fe comes with a five-year, 60,000-mile warranty that extends to 10 years/100,000 on the power train.

Right side's the wrong side for gas cap, says one driver

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: Why in the world are American car manufacturers now putting the gas cap on the wrong side of the car? What was wrong with the driver's side, where it belongs? I can understand European cars not locating the cap on the left because they drive on the left side of the road.—Fred Kleppsattel, Orlando, Fla.

ANSWER: Fred, drivers have been asking that question for decades. The central reason the filler locations are where they are is mostly packaging. The engine configuration, which often dictates which is the easiest side to route the exhaust system down, sometimes means there's room available on the other side of the car for the fuel tank.

The past four test cars I've had were from four separate places — a Korean car (gas cap on the driver's side), European (passenger side), Japanese (driver's side) and American (passenger side).

Years ago, I did a reader survey on the topic, and most preferred the cap on the driver's side —it's easier to get to, and when you are pulling up next to the pumps, which may be protected by posts or bars that are below the driver's sight line, it's easier when those barriers are on the driver's side.

■■■

Q: On a TV show about cars, the host referred to what I think was a "bot dot." Is there such a thing, and if so, what is it?—Bart, Clermont, Fla.

A: That would be "Botts' dots," the little round markers glued to the road, usually on top of a painted line, that tell drivers they are straying outside their lane. They are named (and no, I'm not making this up) for the inventor, transportation engineer Elbert Botts, who died in 1962.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Leaky seal could be culprit of softening tires

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My wife bought a used 2000 Subaru Legacy. All four tires keep losing pressure—15 psi or so from each tire every two weeks. The dealer blames it on the aluminum wheels, saying, "Aluminum wheels leak." Another shop noticed some small cracks on the tire sidewalls and says the tires may be leaking pressure through the sidewalls. Do you have an opinion here?

ANSWER: With that rate of leaking from all four tires, I suspect most of the air is escaping where the tire seals to the rim. This is not unusual with alloy wheels, particularly with replacement tires. In northern climates where salt is used on the roads, corrosion can occur in the contact area between tire and rim. Most tire dealers can deal with this by thoroughly cleaning any corrosion and debris from this surface, then treating the bead area on the rim with a sealant.

Although I'm concerned about any cracking or "checking" in the tire sidewalls (it's time for new tires!), I don't think these are the source of the leak. When you have new tires mounted, make sure the dealer addresses potential air leaks from the tire bead area.

■■■

Q: Every year when temperatures drop below 25 to 30 degrees, my 2002 Dodge Intrepid "whistles" intermittently when I am on the road. What would cause this? Do I need to do anything?

A: Do you recognize the tune? Maybe you could sing along.

You didn't say whether the whistle is coming from the engine and drivetrain or from the vehicle's body. Assuming it's from the engine, I'd suspect an air leak in the induction system upstream of the throttle body. Cold temperatures can cause molded plastic parts to distort, which might create a small air leak. Upstream of the air cleaner, this would not be a big concern.

On the other hand, if the air leak is downstream of the air cleaner or in the throttle body, it could create a drivability issue. My suggestion would be to take apart the plastic induction components, check for damage or cracks, and reinstall them carefully.

If the whistle originates from somewhere on the vehicle's body, try to locate the source as closely as you can. Check window and door gaskets and seals, then clean and lubricate them with aerosol silicone.

■■■

Q: While running errands about two years ago, I noticed that the turn signals, power windows and heater motor were not functioning on my 2002 Dodge Intrepid. Upon restarting the car, I discovered that all three were working again.

Later, the same three controls failed during a short trip. But now the functions don't return right away.

Two service advisers told me that the problem can't be diagnosed until the problem exists when I arrive at the dealership. I think that with the symptoms being consistent, a professional could at least guess.

A: I'm willing to offer an educated guess. All three circuits are energized through the same connector and circuit from the ignition switch, yet all three are protected by different fuses.

Conclusion? Worn or intermittent contacts in the ignition switch itself or high electrical resistance in circuit A22, which runs through connector 10 in the ignition-switch harness connector in the steering column.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Rock around the clock with Carey, 'Glee' and more

Mariah Carey
'Merry Christmas II You'
(Island Def Jam)

Mariah Carey insists that Christmas is her favorite time of year, and it shows on "Merry Christmas II You," Carey's second holiday album.

The record is a mix of classics such as "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "O Holy Night." It also includes new recordings, including the first single, "Oh Santa!"



The stakes were high for Carey with this release. Despite the multitude of hits she has racked up over the years, one of her most enduring songs is "All I Want for Christmas Is You." The track has become a modern holiday classic, setting the bar for any new seasonal music Carey wanted to release.

This time around, the up-tempo "Oh Santa!" with its catchy hook, gives "All I Want for Christmas" a run for its money. On the single, Carey sings about a lost love, and how she longs for Santa to bring him back. "Santa is going to come and make you mine this Christmas," Carey playfully croons. The fun-filled track, which Carey wrote with her longtime collaborator, producer Jermaine Dupri (and Bryan-Michael Cox) showcases Carey at her best.

She seamlessly transitions from this pop tune to more heavy material which features the wide rang of her voice. In one of the more touching moments on the album, Carey teams up with her mother, Patricia Carey, who sings the chorus on "O Come All Ye Faithful," in operatic tones. Carey then switches to the R&B track, "When Christmas Comes.

Most of the songs on the album will fill your ears with holiday cheer, but Carey does hit a sour note, specifically on "One Child," a sappy song that comes toward the end of the album.

Luckily, Carey redeems herself with a new recording of "All I Want For Christmas Is You." The song was first released in 1994, but 17 years later, it is still a welcome addition to any holiday album.

With the release of "Merry Christmas II You," Carey proves that there is such a thing as building upon perfection. ***(Alicia Quarles, AP Entertainment Writer)***

Susan Boyle
'The Gift'
(Columbia)

Like a lot of presents received during the holidays, Susan Boyle's "The Gift" doesn't live up to expectations.

On the second album from the "Britain's Got Talent" sensation, Boyle offers up a selection of holiday classics, plus a few others, including Leonard Cohen's now-ubiquitous "Hallelujah" and the puzzling choice of Crowded House's "Don't Dream It's Over."



The choice of music isn't the problem here. Surprisingly, it's her voice. While she became a YouTube sensation for displaying heavenly but powerful vocals on "Britain's Got Talent," here, she sounds like a timid child. She coos shakily and rarely uses the full potential of her voice. The arrangements don't help her out, sounding like dreary background music: You'll need a pick me up after listening to this all the way through.

In case you make it that far, put on "O Holy Night," the EP by her label mate, "America's Got Talent's" Jackie Evancho, to combat the holiday jeer. Though she actually is a child, Jackie has a magical, soaring voice that shows her fellow reality show contestant how a Christmas album should be done. ***(Nekesa Mumbi Moody, AP Music Writer)***

'Now That's What I Call Christmas 4'
(EMI)

You get what one would expect on the fourth installment of a "Now That's What I Call Music" holiday recording: A pop-centric variety of Christmas music performed by today's hottest acts.

This version comes with two discs. The first set is iTunes-friendly with artists like from Lady Gaga singing "Christmas Tree" to Rihanna's rendition of "A Child Is Born."



There's also a bonus CD with a collection of artists that might have contributed to "Now That's What I Call Music: The 1950s Edition." There are holiday renditions from Johnny Mathis, Elvis Presley and Bing Crosby.

Between the two discs you can find a holiday song that fits your mood. "Now That's What I Call Christmas" is a great addition to anyone's library of holiday music. ***(Alicia Rancilio, Associated Press)***

Annie Lennox
'A Christmas Cornucopia'
(Decca)

Annie Lennox proves herself a pro at mixing old and new world sounds on her first holiday album, "A Christmas Cornucopia," which features a combination of English and French classics, along with an original song as well.

The album opens with "Angels From the Realms of Glory," to which Lennox adds a Middle Eastern sound, and "Lullay Lullay (Coventry Carol)," features some great new vocal twists to make it a dark emotional and whirlwind. "In The Bleak Midwinter" is a calm and sleepy tune, great for rocking the kids to bed.



Not wanting to stick too close to one culture she adds a French number, "I'l est ne le Divin Enfant," and incorporates German on "Silent Night."

Lennox traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to record with the African Children's Choir, who contribute to the albums backup vocals and add a beautiful and unique melody.

The only song written by Lennox is the last one of the album called "Universal Child," which is one of the weakest of the group, but still holds weight due to her incredible voice. ***(Summer Moore, Associated Press)***

Indigo Girls
'Holly Happy Days'
(Vanguard Records)

There aren't a lot of surprises on the Indigo Girls' "Holly Happy Days," but if you're out buying Christmas music, you probably aren't really looking to be shocked out of your proverbial stocking.

What the album does have in abundance is what's made Amy Ray and Emily Saliers who they are: beautiful harmonizing and incredible instrumentation. "Holly Days" is chock full of fiddles, mandolins, banjos and, of course, acoustic guitar. The strongest tracks are the most traditional, including the chills-inducing "O Holy Night," ''I'll Be Home for Christmas" and an understated take on "Angels We Have Heard On High" perfect to trim a tree to. The songs penned by the Girls have their trademark down-home sound, which works best on Ray's mournful "Mistletoe," but comes across as a bit hokey on Saliers' "Your Holiday Song." It's the holidays, after all, though, and sometimes hokey is exactly what you're looking for. ***(Karen Hawkins, Associated Press)***



Ronnie Spector
'Ronnie Spector's Best Christmas Ever'
(Bad Girl)

OK, that's probably overstating things, but then again Ronnie Spector has recorded some of the greatest Christmas rock music of all time, so she's entitled to a pass for the hyperbole. It's hard to believe it was all the way back in 1963 when the leader of the Ronettes gave us versions of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," ''Sleigh Ride" and "Frosty The Snowman" that remain integral parts of the holiday celebration even today. (Does "Ring-a-ling-a-ling-a Ding Dong Ding" ring any bells?)



Her voice is no longer that of a precocious teenager, but it's still smooth, sultry and unmistakably Ronnie. The CD is only five tracks long, but the point here is that Ronnie Spector is once again singing Christmas songs again, and new ones at that.

"My Christmas Wish" and "It's Christmas Once Again" strive mightily to recapture the boppy '60s vibe that marked her original classics — right down to the trademark "Whoa-oh-oh-oh"s she sprinkles them with. "Light One Candle" is a more introspective song, and the title track is suitably pleasant.

More than anything, this is a small serving of holiday musical comfort food, served up by someone who wrote the original recipe. ***(Wayne Parry, Associated Press)***

Shelby Lynne
'Merry Christmas'
(Everso Records)

No matter if you've been in the business for several decades or are still staking out ground, an album chock full of holiday songs — originals and, of course, covers — is one sure way to eke out more sales and get some coveted air time amid the commercials and jingles.

Shelby Lynne is a latecomer to the holiday party, but the 11-song platter was worth the wait. With nine classic tracks — "Silver Bells" and "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" among them — along with a pair of originals penned just for the CD, her full, rich voice is warm and lustrous. The instruments are subdued but buoyant, wrapping her vocals like a favorite muffler and mittens.



One of the originals, "Xmas," is a bluesy acknowledgment that not all Christmas memories are warm and fuzzy. The song is like a slow burn, gaining strength and ferocity that evokes not just Dusty Springfield but Nina Simone in its delivery.

Throughout the album, Lynne's evocative lyrical play is a respite to the traditionally saccharine holiday tunes. ***(Matt Moore, Associated Press)***

Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr.
'Christmas With The Rat Pack'
(Capitol/EMI)

Why settle for an Xmas album from a modern-day retro crooner when you can spend a cool Yule with the Rat Pack in their prime on this collection chosen from '50s and '60s holiday recordings. by Frank, Dino and Sammy.

Sinatra is more crooning choirboy than world-weary bad boy as he displays his vocal mastery on sacred carols such as "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" as well as secular songs like his own rarely heard "Mistletoe and Holly," but the white-bread choral interludes can be an unnecessary distraction. Sinatra is at his romantic, gently swinging best on "The Christmas Waltz," enhanced by a lush Nelson Riddle arrangement.



Martin's relaxed, slightly suggestive vocal stylings are well suited for "Let It Snow!" and "Winter Wonderland." He gets playful on "Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer," even giving Santa a thick German accent, but is surprisingly sensitive on a tender medley of "Peace On Earth/Silent Night."

Davis is full of entertaining surprises. He performs the obscure "Christmas Time All Over The World" with a children's choir singing holiday greetings in languages from Armenian to Norwegian, adds the rare introductory verse to Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song," and romps through a jazzy uptempo arrangement of "Jingle Bells" punctuated with brassy big band bursts.

This is a joyful holiday album — Sinatra even got the songwriter's permission to change the lyrics to give a more upbeat ending to "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" — that's a pleasant way to ring-a-ding in the holiday season. ***(Charles J. Gans, Associated Press)***

Various artists
'World Christmas Party'
(Putumayo)

The best thing about this holiday CD, apart from the opening reggae track that wishes listeners an irie Christmas, is that it breathes new life into classic Christmas songs. Poncho Sanchez gives a groovy, Latin twist to "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," ''Deck the Halls" is delivered in Portuguese and there's a Hawaiian version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." There's also a bluesy take on "Christmas Comes But Once a Year" and a jazzy rendition of "Carol and the Kings." This 12-song collection would make a perfect holiday party soundtrack, even for guests who are sick of the songs of the season. ***(Sandy Cohen, AP Entertainment Writer)***



Winfrey, McCartney in DC for Kennedy Center Honors

WASHINGTON (AP)—When The Beatles were storming America, Oprah Winfrey had the band's poster on her bedroom wall, Merle Haggard was free from prison, Jerry Herman was making Broadway sing and Bill T. Jones was not yet a dancer but growing up in a migrant labor camp.

On Sunday, these leading artists who followed divergent paths since the 1960s will join Paul McCartney to receive the Kennedy Center Honors. They heard accolades from President Barack Obama.

"Although the honorees on this stage each possess a staggering amount of talent, the truth is, they aren't being recognized tonight simply because of their careers as great lyricists or songwriters or dancers or entertainers," Obama said. "Instead, they're being honored for their unique ability to bring us closer together and to capture something larger about who we are—not just as Americans, but as human beings."

Stars also will perform as part of the nation's top prize for those who define U.S. culture through the arts.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a dinner Saturday for the honorees, along with visiting celebrities, including Julia Roberts, Claire Danes, Steven Tyler from Aerosmith, and Gwen Stefani and her band, No Doubt. The guests also included veteran entertainers Carol Channing, Angela Lansbury and Sidney Poitier.

Clinton marveled at the diverse "genres and generations" of artists.

"I am writing a cable about it, which I'm sure you'll find soon on your closest website," she joked after a week of dealing with fallout from the WikiLeaks release of confidential diplomatic dispatches.



AP

President Barack Obama, right, speaks during a reception for the recipients of the 2010 Kennedy Center Honors, from left, Merle Haggard, Jerry Herman, Bill T. Jones, Paul McCartney and Oprah Winfrey in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

She also confessed to "several waves of teen girl hysteria" over The Beatles during her youth. Clinton said McCartney's life had connected people around the world.

The former Beatle, making his second visit to Washington this year for a culture award, said the admiration is mutual. In June, he won the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song from the Library of Congress.

"You know, great things just come in bundles," he said. "I am a big fan of this president, and I think he's a great man whose got some difficulties. ... I'm very honored to be with him and his family, and I'm also a big fan of Hillary's, too."

Since the 1960s, the new Kennedy Center honorees have helped define television, dance, theater and music.

For Winfrey, the prize comes during the 25th and final season of her talk show and just before she launches her new cable network, OWN, on Jan. 1. After her Washington visit, she will take about 300 members of her audience to Australia for a vacation over the holidays.

"You know what's interesting is she spends her life celebrating others, but when it comes time for her, she's very reluctant really," Winfrey's best friend Gayle King told The Associated Press.

King said it was a fitting tribute for Winfrey as a communicator, actress, producer and humanitarian.

"They're recognizing her whole body of work," King said. "She's not just a talk show host."

Performers who will honor Winfrey and the others will be a surprise until they appear on stage Sunday night, but Winfrey has admitted she doesn't like surprises.

At the State Department, the ornate Benjamin Franklin room was a swirl of Hollywood, Nashville, New York and Washington power players, including President Bill Clinton.

Roberts said it was both exciting and nerve wracking. She said the mix of art and politics "can converge in a very interesting way, so when it's done right, it's really exciting."

After the honors were announced in September, Jones, the son of potato pickers, said he could recall dreaming of big things as a 9-year-old boy in upstate New York.

He went on to create the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982 after college with his late partner Arnie Zane. His work has tackled racism, AIDS and other tough issues, sometimes sparking outrage.

Jones said he's often felt like an outsider, yet he's being honored for helping to shape the country. His portrait also is included in a current Smithsonian Institution exhibit, the first to explore the impact of sexual orientation on art history. The exhibition has recently drawn complaints from conservatives.

Opera singer Jessye Norman, who toasted Jones' work Saturday, said she admired him for being brave enough to stand alone at times in his advocacy on social and political issues.

"I can feel the love," Jones said of the honor, adding that he was thrilled to be receiving the award while Obama is president. Still, he said he is discouraged by the country's direction. "I am trembling a little bit, actually. The discourse is so poisonous."

In recent years, Jones has shared his talents with Broadway, winning Tony awards for his choreography in "Spring Awakening" and this year for his show "Fela!," playing currently in New York and London. He said he hopes more artists will bridge the gap between the dance world and mainstream theater.

"We don't want to be marginalized anymore," he said. "Indifference is worse than dislike."

The Kennedy Center Honors gala will be recorded Sunday night for broadcast Dec. 28 on CBS.

Winfrey picks 2 Dickens novels for her book club

NEW YORK (AP)—Better set some time aside for Oprah Winfrey's latest book club pick.

The talk show host has selected a pair of Dickens classics, "A Tale of Two Cities" and "Great Expectations." The two novels are being issued in a single bound Penguin paperback edition, around 800 pages, with a list price of $20. The electronic version, also from Penguin, sells for $7.99.

Because the copyright has long expired on the 19th-century novels, they are available through a variety of publishers and even directly from retailers. "Great Expectations" can be downloaded for free on Amazon.com's Kindle reader. "A Tale of Two Cities" costs 99 cents on Barnes & Noble's e-book device, the Nook.

Winfrey is to announce her selection Monday, when her long-awaited reconciliation with Jonathan Franzen will air.

Winfrey picked Franzen's "Freedom" nine years after his ambivalence over her selection of his novel "The Corrections" led her to withdraw his invitation to appear on her show. Franzen has written enviously of Dickens' time, when a new literary release "was anticipated with the kind of fever that a late-December film release inspires today."

On Sunday, The Associated Press purchased a copy of the new Dickens volume, which has the book club logo on the cover.

Messages left for Winfrey's Harpo Productions in Chicago weren't immediately returned.

Winfrey has chosen older works before, including Leo Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina" and John Steinbeck's "East of Eden." Her website recommends Dickens' "David Copperfield," noting it was a favorite of Tolstoy's.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We, the family of the late

†Antonio Ilo Iguel

Better known as "Tonchi"



Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries and most especially at the Mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Janet A. Iguel and Children

Facebook's new facelift plays up photos, friends

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is redesigning the profile pages of its 500 million-plus users to make it more of a reflection of their real lives and emphasize one of the site's most popular features, photos.

Facebook said in a blog post Sunday the changes are meant to make it easier for users to tell their story—who they are, where they work, their life philosophy and the most important people in their lives. The changes place a bigger emphasis on visuals, from photos to images of users' interests.

A new biography section includes not just who you are and where you live but a set of the most recent photos that your friends have "tagged" you in. Previously users had to click on a tab to see the latest photos on a profile. Users can also feature important friends in their profile, while previously only random selection appeared. And in addition to listing their job, users can now add the projects they worked on. It's all a move toward curating a more complete picture of a person, something that will likely appeal to Facebook's advertisers. The company did not make any changes to its privacy policy as part of the redesign.

Facebook unveiled the changes ahead of an appearance on 60 Minutes by CEO Mark Zuckerberg Sunday evening. Zuckerberg, 26, talked about the profile page redesign, Facebook's hard-working culture of all-night coding sessions, as well as his take on "The Social Network," the movie about Facebook's beginning that doesn't cast him in a very flattering light.

"I think that they got every single T-shirt that they had the Mark Zuckerberg character wearing right. I think I actually own those T-shirts," Zuckerberg told 60 Minutes' Lesley Stahl in the interview.

"But I mean, there are hugely basic things that they got wrong, too," he added. "(They) made it seem like my whole motivation for building Facebook was so I could get girls, right? And they completely left out the fact that my girlfriend, I've been dating since before I started Facebook."

Asked about a Facebook IPO, Zuckerberg said "You know, maybe."

"A lot of people who I think build start-ups or companies think that selling the company or going public is this endpoint," he said. "Right, it's like you win when you go public. And that's just not how I see it."

On Facebook, even small changes to users' home pages tend to meet with protests from a small but vocal fraction of users who want things to stay the way they are. In an attempt to pre-empt this, Facebook is rolling out the changes slowly, letting users—for the time being—decide whether they want to display the new profile layout or the old one. The new layout will be available to all users by early next year, the company said.

The latest changes come as Facebook intensifies its competition with online search leader Google Inc. as the primary destination for anyone using the Internet. The changes streamline users profile pages so it's easier to see the things that matter the most, rather than a chronological stream of the latest wall posts, links and photos they posted. Users can also see how their Facebook lives intertwine with their friends by clicking on a "See Friendship" link on the top right hand page of their friends' profiles.

"You can see all the things that you have in common with that person," Zuckerberg said. "And it's just like, it gives you this amazing connection with that person in a way that the current version of the profile that we have today just doesn't do."



AP

In this film publicity image released by Disney, Rapunzel, voiced by Mandy Moore, right, and Flynn, voiced by Zachary Levi are shown in a scene from the animated feature, "Tangled."

Hairy vs. Harry: 'Tangled' wins weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hair has won out over Harry Potter at the weekend box office.

Mandy Moore's animated musical "Tangled," a new take on long-haired fairy-tale princess Rapunzel, sewed up the No. 1 spot with $21.5 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. That raised the Disney release's domestic total to $96.5 million.

"Tangled" had debuted in second-place over Thanksgiving behind "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1," which had been at the top of the box office the two previous weekends.

"Harry Potter" slipped to No. 2 this weekend with $16.7 million. The next-to-last chapter in the Warner Bros. franchise about the teen wizard lifted its domestic haul to $244.2 million.

Playing largely to family crowds, "Tangled" should hold on well through the holidays, said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney.

"It's not very often the second week of a movie that it ends up the No. 1 movie," Viane said. "This will be one of those leggy movies that just keeps playing and playing."

Business was off sharply after a brisk Thanksgiving weekend, which is one of the busiest periods of the year at movie theaters.

With just $88 million in overall receipts, this was Hollywood's second-worst weekend of the year, behind the meager $81.8 million haul the weekend after Labor Day, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"It was a bad weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for Hollywood.com. "It just shows that people got a lot of their movie-going out of the way over that five-day Thanksgiving weekend, and this weekend, they went, `Ahh, we've seen it.'"

Overall revenues also were down from last year. The $88 million in revenue was off 11.5 percent compared to the same weekend in 2009, when "The Blind Side" led the box office with $20 million, according to Hollywood.com.

The weekend's only new wide release, Rogue Pictures' action tale "The Warrior's Way," was a dud with just $3.1 million. Playing in 1,622 theaters, "The Warrior's Way" averaged a weak $1,881 a cinema, compared to $5,967 in 3,603 cinemas for "Tangled."

Starring Kate Bosworth, "The Warrior's Way" is a martial-arts adventure about an assassin hiding out in the Old West.

Natalie Portman's ballet drama "Black Swan" had a huge debut in limited release, taking in $1.4 million in just 18 theaters, for a whopping average of $77,459 a theater.

Released by Fox Searchlight, "Black Swan" stars Portman as a dancer who begins to lose herself in delusion amid the pressures of preparing for the lead in Swan Lake. The film gradually expands into nationwide release through Christmas week.

Also in limited release, Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor's gay romance "I Love You Phillip Morris" opened solidly with $113,200 in six theaters, averaging $18,886.

Carrey stars as a scam artist who finds the love of his life (McGregor) in state prison. The movie gradually expands into wide release through early January.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1.	"**Tangled**,"	$21.5 million.
2.	"**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1,**"	$16.7 million.
3 (tie).	"**Burlesque**,"	$6.1 million.
3 (tie).	"**Unstoppable**,"	$6.1 million.
5.	"**Love & Other Drugs**,"	$5.7 million.
6.	"**Megamind**,"	$5 million.
7.	"**Due Date**,"	$4.2 million.
8.	"**Faster**,"	$3.8 million.
9.	"**The Warrior's Way**,"	$3.1 million.
10.	"**The Next Three Days**,"	$2.7 million.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS
Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!
Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000
POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI
$5.75 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.75 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.75 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.75 Military with Valid I.D.
TIMEWARP TUESDAY $5.75 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)
RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com
dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS
For Friday, December 3rd through Thursday, December 9th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
NOW SHOWING


The Warrior's Way
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10
Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush, Danny Huston, and Jang Dong-gun star in this visually inventive hybrid martial arts Western tracing the adventures of an Asian assassin who must fight for his life while hiding out in the Wild West.


Tangled
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20
Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi
Children's, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale gets a lavish CG makeover as directors Glen Keane and Dean Wellins team to tell the tale of a fair-haired beauty with long-flowing locks, a gallant hero with a heart of gold, and the evil witch who plots to keep these lovelorn innocents apart.


Faster
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Dwayne Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton
Action, Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
An ex-convict seeks revenge for his brother's death in this action-packed revenge thriller starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Ten years ago, Driver (Johnson) was part of a bank heist gone horribly awry. In the chaos of the botched robbery, his brother wound up dead. Now Driver is a free man, and he's determined to punish the men who killed his brother.


Burlesque
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Cher, Christina Aguilera
Musical • Rated PG 13


Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows1
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13


Unstoppable
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
Action • Rated PG 13


Megamind
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Will Farrell, Tina Fey
Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

Michael Jackson glove brings $330,000 at auction

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Items from the Michael Jackson's stage wardrobe, including one of the King of Pop's famous gloves, attracted furious bidding at an auction of celebrity memorabilia in Beverly Hills.

Julien's Auctions says a lone glove worn by Jackson during the "Bad" tour in the late 1980s sold for $330,000 at the "Icons & Idols" auction Saturday night. A jacket signed by Jackson brought in $96,000 and a fedora he wore on stage went for $72,000 at the Julien's Auctions event.

Other highlights from the auction were an x-ray of Albert Einstein's brain, which brought $38,750, and a pair of Marilyn Monroe's empty prescription bottles sold for $18,750.

A military-style jacket worn by John Lennon for a 1966 Life Magazine photo shoot sold for $240,000.

Julien's Auctions says the two-day event brought in more than $3 million.

Accident halts live TV game show in Germany

BERLIN (AP)—A live broadcast of a popular German game show was halted after a contestant was severely injured while trying to jump over a moving car driven by his father.

The accident occurred Saturday night just before Canadian teen idol Justin Bieber was to appear on the show, prompting him to say on his Twitter account: "Please pray for Samuel Koch & his family as we wait and hope for his health and safety."

Koch's stunt may have gone terribly wrong because the special shoes he was wearing for the jump, featuring a suspension system, malfunctioned.

Broadcaster ZDF said the accident by the 23-year-old prompted it to cancel the live broadcast of the "Wetten Dass" ("Bet It"), which had an audience of about 10 million people, according to German media.

Koch suffered multiple back injuries and fractures, underwent surgery Sunday, and his condition was initially life threatening, the German news agency DPAD quoted Duesseldorf hospital Dr. Wolfgang Raab as saying.

But it remained unclear if or when Koch would fully recover since "he is in an extremely critical stage," Raab told journalists.



AP

German TV host Thomas Gottschalk right, watches over contestant Samuel Koch after a stunt went wrong during the top rated German game show "Wetten Dass" (Bet it…?) in Duesseldorf, Saturday Dec. 4 , 2010.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Google buys Internet video security firm Widevine

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google has agreed to buy a company whose software is used to protect Internet video from piracy and make it play more smoothly. The Seattle-based company, Widevine Technologies Inc., makes so-called "digital rights management" software that's used to secure video content as it makes its way to a variety of consumer devices, such as Internet-connected TVs, personal computers and cell phones. Its software is also used to help make sure the content is delivered seamlessly, known in industry jargon as "optimization." The purchase price wasn't disclosed. Google Inc. which is based in Mountain View, owns the video-sharing site YouTube.

Voice of 'Dora The Explorer,' network end dispute

NEW YORK (AP) — A teenage actress has dropped her claim that Nickelodeon massively underpaid her for lending her voice to the plucky cartoon heroine of "Dora The Explorer," and the network said Friday she would do some more work on the pioneering children's show. Caitlin Sanchez agreed to dismiss her lawsuit against the network and its corporate parents last month, federal court records show. Nickelodeon said Friday that Caitlin would finish some future episodes. The network declined to say how many or otherwise detail its arrangement with the Fairview, New Jersey, teen. "We have always felt, and continue to feel, that Caitlin is a very talented performer," the network said in a statement. "Our intention was always that Caitlin complete the episodes on which she worked, and we are pleased that she has agreed to do so." Caitlin's lawyer, John Balestriere, would say only that the lawsuit was withdrawn after discussions.

Tutor says $660 mln purchase of Miramax closed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Construction magnate Ron Tutor can now call himself a Hollywood mogul. The chief executive of Tutor-Saliba Corp. confirmed Friday that the group of investors he leads closed on a deal to buy the award-laden studio Miramax Films from The Walt Disney Co. for $660 million. The deal was announced in July, but its closing was delayed amid concerns about bank financing. Tutor on Friday told The Associated Press that Barclays PLC was the lead bank in the financing. News of the closing was reported earlier by website TheWrap. Miramax was founded in 1979 by Harvey and Bob Weinstein and named after their parents Miriam and Max. The studio is behind a string of Oscar winners including "Shakespeare in Love" (1998), "Chicago" (2002) and "No Country for Old Men" (2007).

Person of interest in publicist's death was ex-con

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man who killed himself in front of police investigating Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen's death is identified in California legal documents as an ex-convict who served time in prison for robbery. The document obtained Friday by The Associated Press says 43-year-old Harold Martin Smith was released from prison in 2007 and discharged from parole last year. Court documents indicate Smith had a lengthy criminal past that included arrests for felony burglary and other offenses. Beverly Hills police have only labeled the suicide victim a person of interest in Chasen's death. The publicist was fatally shot as she drove home from a party following a movie premiere. Smith pleaded guilty in December 1991 to second degree burglary and was ordered to serve six months in jail and was placed on three years probation, according to court records. He also had a prior burglary conviction in 1985 in New York.

Chilean miner: Movie discussions 'advanced'

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Two of the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for two months said Sunday that plans for a movie chronicling their ordeal are moving fast.

Miner Juan Illanes said during a visit to Costa Rica that discussions for the movie are "very advanced and we hope there are results soon."

"It's a business deal and when that's the case you want to try to find a way for everyone to profit fairly," Illanes said.

Illanes said his life has been "scandalously different" since he and his colleagues were rescued in October after spending 69 days trapped 2,300 feet (700 meters) underground by a cave-in.

Illanes said that prior to the collapse, he was "a normal worker" who would have never been able to afford a trip to Costa Rica. Illanes and Bustos were in the capital, San Jose, to host two private conferences about their experience trapped in the mine.

They will return to Chile before traveling Dec. 11 to England, where they've been invited to attend a Manchester United soccer game.

The miners have been inundated with gifts since their rescue.

"Why do they give them to us? I think that the joy that our rescue represented is now manifesting itself in gifts," Bustos said.

Dane Cook's half brother ordered to repay him $12M

BOSTON (AP)—The Massachusetts attorney general's office has ordered comedian Dane Cook's half brother and sister-in-law to pay $12 million in restitution after they pleaded guilty to stealing from him.

Darryl and Erika McCauley of Wilmington were accused of embezzling millions from Cook while Darryl McCauley was working as Cook's business manager.

Darryl McCauley was sentenced in October to five to six years in prison on charges including 27 counts of larceny. His wife was sentenced to 2½ to three years in prison on charges including two counts of larceny.

A spokesman for Attorney General Martha Coakley told the Portsmouth Herald newspaper that the next step is for the court to tally the couple's assets. The couple bought a home in York Beach, Maine, and also invested in a hotel and restaurant there.



AP

In this Sept. 12, 2010 file photo, Dane Cook arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Woman with broken fingers deserves friend's helping hand

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Handed a Challenge" (Oct. 28) was visiting her friend "Rosemary" when one of "Hand-ed's" sons accidentally slammed a car door on Rosemary's hand, breaking two fingers. Rosemary, a massage therapist, asked to be reimbursed for lost wages because of the mishap—and you agreed.

Abby, I find Rosemary's request absurd. Kids play. Accidents happen, and people think they deserve cash for it. Sending the boy to help Rosemary with chores would have been a given, but not after she demanded money.

"Hand-ed" should tell her "friend" that asking for money to save a friendship is extortion. I cannot imagine one single friend of mine who would not accept the injury with a certain amount of grace. "Hand-ed" needs to find more laid-back friends.

WINDY IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR WINDY: Thank you for offering a different perspective. While I received varied responses from readers, most agreed with me that "Hand-ed" is responsible for the damage her sons had caused. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Hand-ed" was on target. As a teacher for many years, I know the difference between what is ordinary mischief and what is a more serious matter. Anyone old enough to think of hiding behind a car door and opening it from the outside is old enough to know better. As long as his parents fail to recognize this, continue to make excuses for him and allow him to avoid the consequences of his behavior, he'll continue to misbehave and will not be welcome in anyone's home.

ANNE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: If "Hand-ed" and her husband have homeowner's or renter's insurance, their child is insured under the policy. "Hand-ed" should inform her insurance company of the accident and ask the company to pay for these damages. Having the carrier indemnify the insured for this type of unforeseen accident is the reason for paying an insurance premium.

AN ATTORNEY IN RUTLAND, VT.

DEAR ABBY: As parents, we are responsible not only for our own actions, but also the actions of our children, who are rarely wise enough to predict the outcome of their poor judgments. A true friend would have made certain all aspects of the results stemming from the "unfortunate accident" were completely covered before ending the visit. This would include assisting with errands or household chores, monetary reimbursement for medical charges incurred and lost wages, so the injured person would not lose sleep over the pain or worry about how to approach requesting assistance.

JUDY IN COAL VALLEY, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: I empathize with "Hand-ed" when she said "accidents happen," but to say the accident could have happened whether her boys were there or not is a cop-out. I taught my sons to be mindful of other people's property. The fact that they got so close to Rosemary's car as to open the door shows a lack of respect for her property.

I had a friend who was a massage therapist. Her hands were her livelihood. Not only does Rosemary have to wait for her fingers to heal, it will take time for her fingers to regain all their strength. I hope "Hand-ed" sees the error of her ways and will try to make amends with her friend.

RUTH IN CALIFORNIA

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

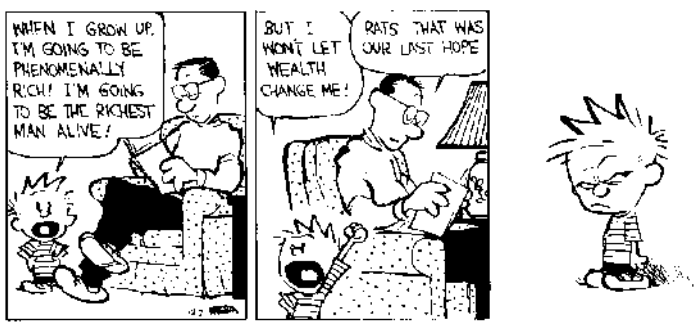
■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



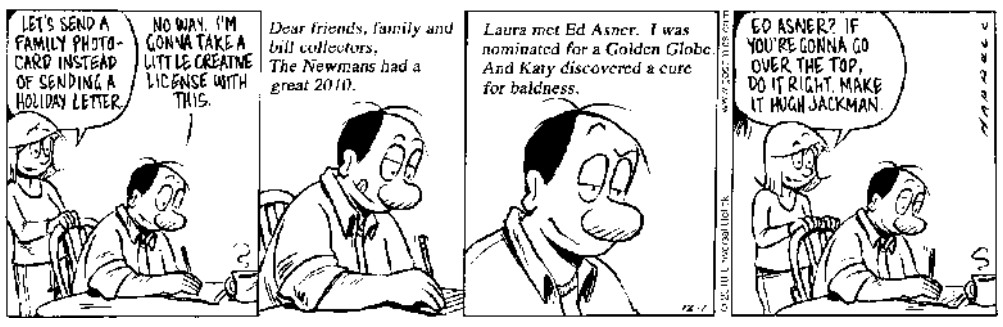
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



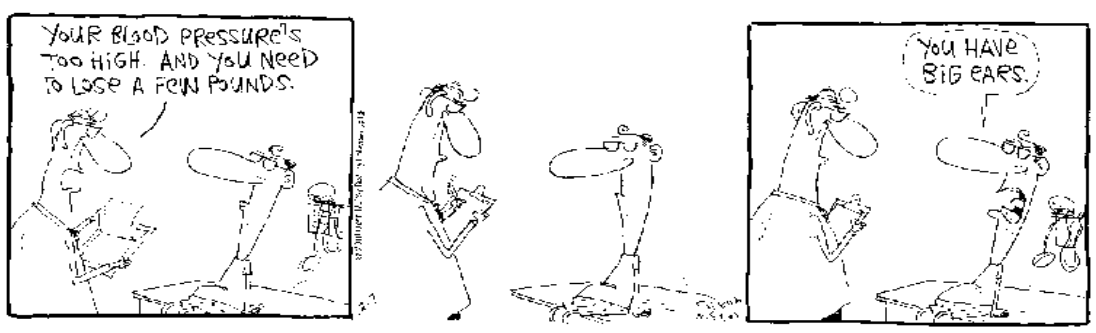
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

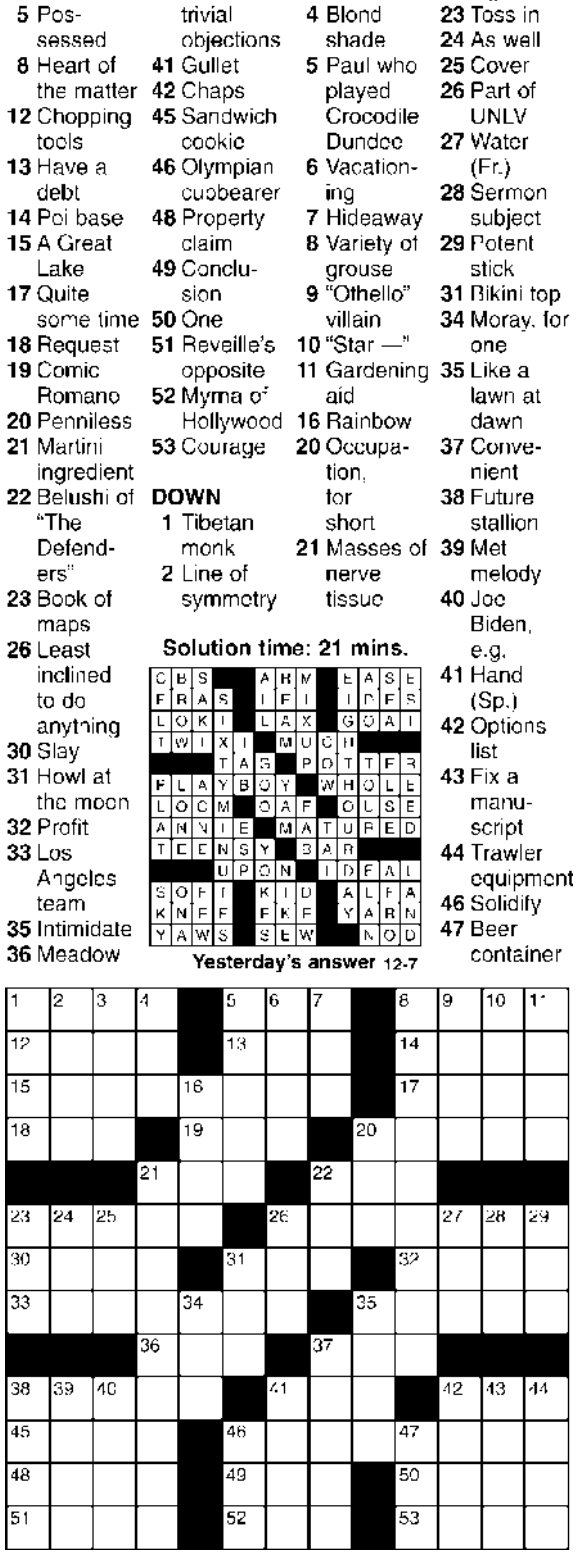
ACROSS
1 Actress Turner
5 Possessed
8 Heart of the matter
12 Chopping tools
13 Have a debt
14 Poi base
15 A Great Lake
17 Quite some time
18 Request
19 Comic Romano
20 Penniless
21 Martini ingredient
22 Belushi of "The Defenders"
23 Book of maps
26 Least inclined to do anything
30 Slay
31 Howl at the moon
32 Profit
33 Los Angeles team
35 Intimidate
36 Meadow
37 Coop occupant
38 Raise trivial objections
41 Gullet
42 Chaps
45 Sandwich cookie
46 Olympian cupbearer
48 Property claim
49 Conclusion
50 One
51 Reveille's opposite
52 Myrna of Hollywood
53 Courage

DOWN
1 Tibetan monk
2 Line of symmetry
3 Head-shoulders connector
4 Blond shade
5 Paul who played Crocodile Dundee
6 Vacationing
7 Hideaway
8 Variety of grouse
9 "Othello" villain
10 "Star —"
11 Gardening aid
16 Rainbow
20 Occupation, for short
21 Masses of nerve tissue
22 Big name in late-night TV
23 Toss in
24 As well
25 Cover
26 Part of UNLV
27 Water (Fr.)
28 Sermon subject
29 Potent stick
31 Bikini top
34 Moray, for one
35 Like a lawn at dawn
37 Convenient
38 Future stallion
39 Met melody
40 Joe Biden, e.g.
41 Hand (Sp.)
42 Options list
43 Fix a manuscript
44 Trawler equipment
46 Solidify
47 Beer container

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	B	S			A	R	M		E	A	S	E
F	R	A	S		I	F	I		I	D	F	S
L	O	K	I		L	A	X		G	O	A	I
T	W	I	X	I		M	U	C	H			
			T	A	G		P	O	T	T	F	R
F	L	A	Y	B	O	Y		W	H	O	L	E
L	O	C	M		O	A	F		O	L	S	E
A	N	N	I	E		M	A	T	U	F	E	D
T	E	E	N	S	Y		B	A	R			
			U	P	O	N		I	D	E	A	L
S	O	F	I		K	I	D		A	L	F	A
K	N	E	F		F	K	F		A	Y	A	R	N
Y	A	W	S		S	E	W			N	O	D

Yesterday's answer 12-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tino Martinez, 43; C. Thomas Howell, 44; Tom Waits, 61; Ellen Burstyn, 78

Happy Birthday: Look at your options before you decide to make a move that may cost you emotionally. Set your goals and follow through. Finishing what you start will count, so there is no way you can walk away without loss. Your charming and entertaining personality will draw plenty of romantic attention. Your numbers are 5, 13, 16, 28, 31, 37, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Concentrate on the lesson, not the experience, and detach yourself emotionally. Discipline and gauging your time carefully will be required. Put serious consideration and thought into every move you make. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A chance to position yourself for a job that interests you is possible. Someone you know will put in a good word and a recommendation. Change is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): There will be plenty of pressure to deal with if you leave your personal paperwork unfinished. You will not be able to move forward and may even be penalized. A sudden loss will leave you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make sure you hold up your end of any partnerships you are involved in. Socializing with peers or enjoying a little festive spirit at work will help you build a closer relationship to people you work alongside. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may not feel like working but it's important to stay on top of your tasks. You may face problems with someone you love or live with if you don't take care of your share of the chores. A burden that will cause emotional upset must be taken care of immediately. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have plenty of options. Making alterations at home will turn out superbly and will bring you closer to your family or lover. A social gathering with fellow workers will allow you insight. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let anyone guilt you into thinking you should do more. The pace will be hectic and, in order to do things well, you have to stay focused and stick to the basics. A good idea you want to share with friends or your lover will pay off. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone who meant a lot to you in the past will surface, making you rethink your direction and geographical location. A lot can change in a very short period of time. Be ready to take action at the first opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take on a challenge and you will show everyone how well you work under pressure. Expect to face a problem regarding your home, family or residence. Finish whatever needs doing before the year comes to a close. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Sort through matters that need to be cleared up quickly. Your insight will guide you regarding your work and how you can turn something you want to do into a profitable endeavor. There is no time to waste. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The more you offer to help a cause or those in need, the better you will feel about who you are and what you represent. You can stabilize your life if you interact with people with something to offer you in return. Hard work will pay off. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may face an explosive situation if you aren't willing to back down and rethink how you should proceed. Back off and give everyone time to calm down. A promise made to someone you regard highly will be reciprocated. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proud, just and always willing to lend a helping hand. You know what you want and are a participant and a competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					5	3		4
		7		1				
	5		8	4				2
	3	8 5		6		4	1	5
1						2		
7				8	3		9	
				2		7		
4		1	9					

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	3	8	5	9	6	7	4
4	5	8	2	6	7	3	9	1
6	7	9	3	1	4	5	2	8
2	3	6	9	4	8	7	1	5
7	8	1	5	3	2	9	4	6
5	9	4	6	7	1	2	8	3
8	6	2	1	9	3	4	5	7
9	4	5	7	8	6	1	3	2
3	1	7	4	2	5	8	6	9

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THRIFT SHOPS Solution: 8 letters

C	L	G	F	Y	T	E	I	R	A	V	D	M	S	C
H	J	A	F	F	O	R	D	A	B	L	E	E	O	E
A	A	M	C	T	A	S	T	F	R	R	C	N	S	P
R	C	E	D	O	T	T	G	E	C	O	T	A	R	U
I	K	S	I	Y	L	A	S	H	N	R	H	S	E	B
T	E	S	L	C	T	A	A	D	I	C	D	S	T	L
Y	T	E	O	N	L	N	H	B	R	O	L	U	L	I
U	H	E	I	E	D	A	U	U	O	E	D	I	E	C
S	C	V	G	I	N	T	P	G	V	O	T	T	H	T
E	R	I	S	D	I	S	S	O	N	A	K	A	S	C
H	U	E	S	O	U	N	N	A	P	T	L	S	I	E
T	H	C	N	U	E	B	T	A	V	U	F	U	C	L
O	C	E	F	A	M	I	L	Y	E	E	L	I	E	L
L	T	R	E	M	O	T	S	U	C	J	R	A	G	O
Ⓒ	Ⓞ	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	N	H	T	R	O	P	P	U	S	R	C

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 12/7

Affordable, Books, Budget, Charity, Church, Clothes, Collect, Contribution, Cost, Customer, Donation, Family, Games, Gift, Goods, Home, Jacket, Jeans, Local, Merchandise, Music, Novels, Popular, Price, Public, Purchase, Receive, Resale, Retail, Save, Secondhand, Shelters, Staff, Style, Suit, Support, Taste, Used, Value, Variety, Vintage

Yesterday's Answer: Mustard

Treasury of Word Jumbles: Mystery phrases from 135 years of U.S. passages and reading, each 6, 4, 3, 7 letters, with clues and cryptic hints to solve. 128 pp. Mix-and-match additional volumes to Universal Puzzle Publishers, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Credit card orders, 1-800-728-5885. Or order online at www.upuzzles.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

AUTOMOTIVE

2007 Toyota Corolla, mileage 43,000. Excellent condition. Price $8,900.00. Call 287-7676

2007 Nissan Sentra, mileage 42,000. Excellent condition. Price $8,800.00. Call 287-7676

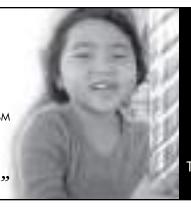
EMPLOYMENT

Wanted:
Power Plant Operators,
Diesel Mechanics
Please call 233-6183
Fax Bio data to 233-6828

WHATZIT Solution: Always on the go

SALE

Garage Sale
December 11, 2010 • 8am - 12pm
Tagan Tagan Drive
near Botanical Garden
follow signs

share the power of a wish℠

"I want to meet Winnie the Pooh!"
Saipan Tribune
MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293 • Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

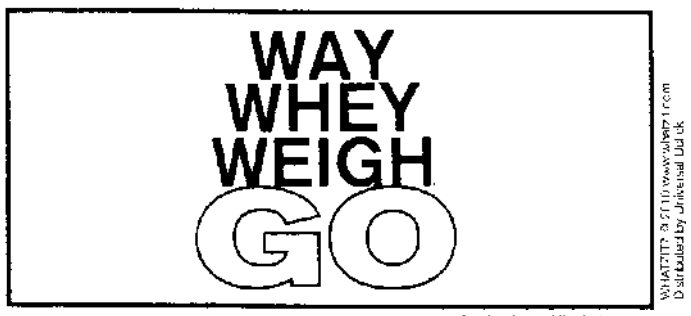
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

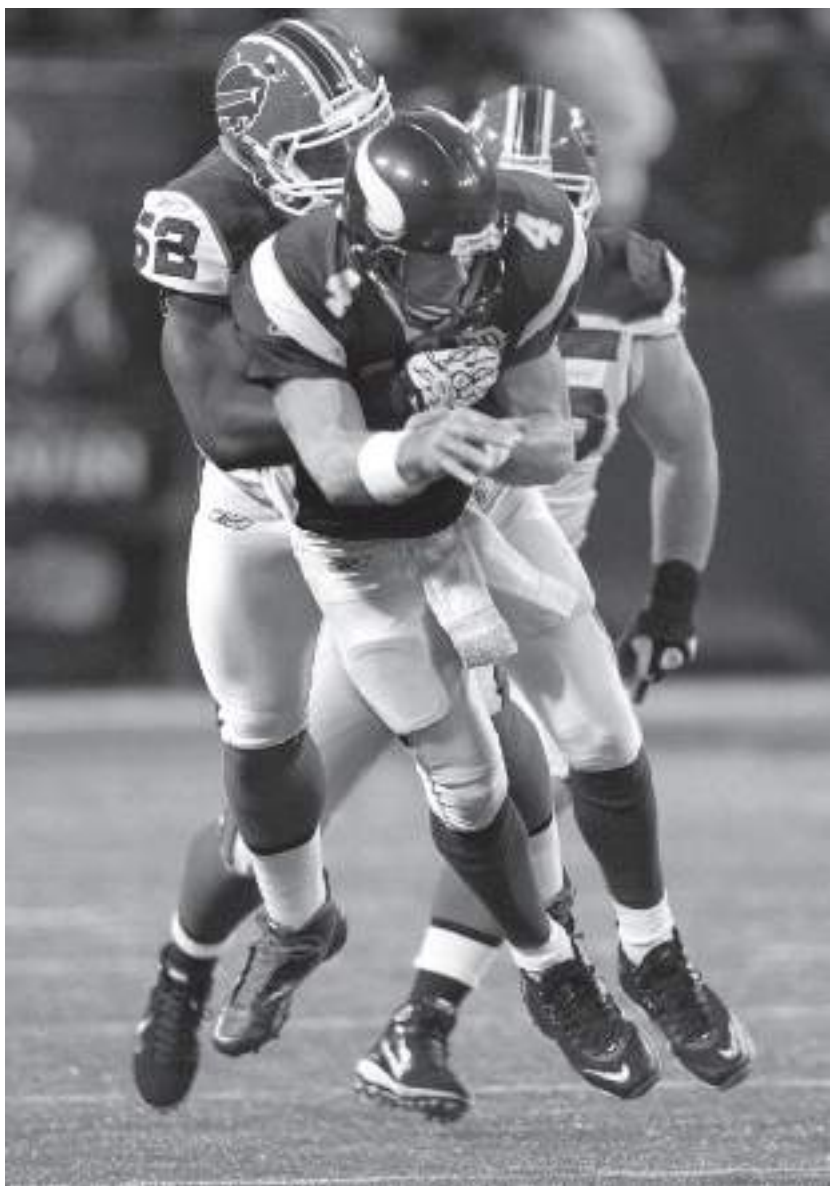
Vikings overcome loss of Favre in 38-14 win

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Tarvaris Jackson came off the bench for an injured Brett Favre and threw for 187 yards and two touchdowns as the Minnesota Vikings beat Buffalo 38-14 on Sunday.

Adrian Peterson rushed for 107 yards and three touchdowns on a tender right ankle for the Vikings, who have won both matches under interim head coach Leslie Frazier to improve their win-loss record to 5-7.

Favre said he sprained his throwing shoulder, which occurred on the first series of the game after a big hit by Bills linebacker Arthur Moats. Jackson came in and led the Vikings to 31 first-half points. But he also threw three interceptions, including one that Drayton Florence returned 40 yards for a touchdown.

Florence had two interceptions for the Bills (2-10). Buffalo committed five turnovers and had just 9 yards passing in the first half to lose its second in a row following two straight wins.



AP

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre (4) is hit by Buffalo Bills linebacker Arthur Moats (52) in the first quarter of an NFL football game in Minneapolis, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

Jaguars 17, Titans 6

At Nashville, Maurice Jones-Drew ran for a career-best 186 yards and Rashad Jennings and David Garrard each ran for a touchdown for Jacksonville.

The wsin allowed the Jaguars (7-5) to take over first-place in the AFC South.

Cowboys 38, Colts 35 OT

At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning had two interceptions returned for touchdowns and his fourth of the day set up David Buehler for a 38-yard field goal that gave Dallas the win in overtime.

Manning finished 36 of 48 for 365 yards with two touchdowns and his second straight four-interception game. He's thrown a career-high 11 picks in the past three weeks with four of those going back for TDs.

Dallas (4-8) rushed for a season-high 217 yards and led most of the way thanks to Manning's miscues. The Colts (6-6) fell one game behind first-place Jacksonville in the AFC South.

When Manning's third-down pass to Jacob Tamme was deflected by Mike Jenkins, linebacker Sean Lee picked off his second pass of the day and ran it back 13 yards to the Colts 36. Six plays later, Buehler won it.

Jaguars 17, Titans 6

At Nashville, Maurice Jones-Drew ran for a career-best 186 yards and Rashad Jennings and David Garrard each ran for a touchdown for Jacksonville.

The win allowed the Jaguars (7-5) to take over first-place in the AFC South, a half-game ahead of the Indianapolis Colts, who played later Sunday.

The Jaguars took control on the ground from the start on a windy, cold day. They scored on their opening drive by running through and over the Titans to split the season series.

Tennessee (5-7) started veteran Kerry Collins at quarterback, but the Titans were unable to avoid their fifth straight loss. The Titans have now gone 13 quarters without scoring a touchdown.

Falcons 28, Bucs 24

At Tampa, Eric Weems scored from a 102-yard kickoff return and Matt Ryan threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Michael Jenkins as Atlanta rallied from a 10-point deficit for its sixth straight victory.

Ryan led his sixth fourth-quarter comeback of the season for the NFC South leaders, keeping a 10-play, 67-yard march alive with a 25-yard completion to Roddy White on third-and-20. The Falcons (10-2) also benefited from a couple of costly penalties on the Bucs.

Rookie LeGarrette Blount rushed for 103 yards and fullback Earnest Graham threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to John Gilmore for Tampa Bay (7-5), which fell to 0-5 against teams with winning records.

Chiefs 10, Broncos 6

At Kansas City, Jamaal Charles rushed for 116 yards and Matt Cassel threw a 3-yard pass to Leonard Pope for the only touchdown as Kansas City avenged a 20-point loss to Denver three weeks ago.

Knowshon Moreno rushed for 161 yards for the Broncos (3-9), who are enduring one of their worst stretches in decades, losing 17 of their past 22 games under coach Josh McDaniels.

In spite of all their blunders, the Chiefs (8-4) stayed unbeaten in six home games and remained on top of the AFC West.

Seahawks 31, Panthers 14

At Seattle, Marshawn Lynch rushed for a career-high three touchdowns, Lofa Tatupu returned an interception 26 yards and Seattle used a 21-point third quarter to rally past Carolina.

Lynch scored on a pair of 1-yard runs in the third quarter, sandwiched around Tatupu's interception of Carolina rookie Jimmy Clausen. Lynch added a 22-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter as Seattle (6-6) avoided an embarrassing loss and stayed even with St. Louis in the NFC West race.

Rams 19, Cardinals 6

At Glendale, Steven Jackson ran for 102 yards, including 27 on the game's lone touchdown, and Josh Brown kicked four field goals as St. Louis (6-6) won consecutive road games for the first time in more than three years.

The Rams (6-6) also ended an eight-game losing streak against Arizona, which dropped its seventh in a row. St. Louis remained in a first-place tie with Seattle in the weak NFC West.

Raiders 28, Chargers 13

At San Diego, Jason Campbell ran for one touchdown and threw for another, while Darren McFadden ran for 97 yards and a TD for Oakland.

The loss puts a serious crimp in the playoff hopes for the four-time defending AFC West champion Chargers (6-6), who trail the Chiefs by two games with four to play. Oakland (6-6) revived a running game that had been stopped cold in two straight losses, ripping through the Chargers for 251 yards. Michael Bush ran for 95 yards.

Saints 34, Bengals 30

At Cincinnati, Drew Brees threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Marques Colston with 31 seconds left, rallying New Orleans to its fifth straight victory.

The Saints (9-3) trailed for the first time after newcomer Clint Stitser made a 47-yard field goal with 4:25 to go, putting the Bengals (2-10) up 30-27.

Plenty of time for Brees to pull it out, with the help of yet another Bengals blunder.

Brees passed Archie Manning as the Saints' career passing leader earlier in the game. His 42-yarder to Robert Meacham got New Orleans into field-goal range. On fourth-and-2 from the Cincinnati 7, the Saints lined up and tried to draw the Bengals offsides.

Packers 34, 49ers 16

At Green Bay, Donald Driver's catch-and-run for a 61-yard touchdown broke open a tight game in the third quarter.

Greg Jennings caught six passes from Aaron Rodgers for 122 yards and a pair of touchdowns for the Packers (8-4), who picked up a critical win as they try to make a push for the playoffs in the final month of the season.

Vernon Davis had 126 yards receiving and a touchdown for the 49ers (4-8).

Giants 31, Redskins 7

At East Rutherford, Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw ran for two touchdowns apiece and New York won easily.

Jacobs ran eight times for 103 yards and scored on jaunts of 8 and 28 yards, while Bradshaw had 97 yards and TD runs of 4 and 10 yards as the Giants (8-4) moved back into first-place tie with Philadelphia in the NFC East.

Bears 24, Lions 20

At Detroit, Jay Cutler threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Brandon Manumaleuna one play after a questionable call midway through the fourth quarter to lift Chicago.

Browns 13, Dolphins 10

At Miami, Mike Adams' interception set up a short field goal on the final play, and Cleveland overcame a comedy of errors.

When Browns lineman David Bowens deflected Chad Henne's third-down pass, Adams snatched the ball and ran 25 yards to the 2. On fourth down, Phil Dawson kicked a 23-yard field goal for the win.

Cleveland (5-7) won for the fourth time in six games, and for the first time in Miami since 1970.

Spurs beat sliding Hornets to keep NBA-best mark

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tony Parker scored 19 points as the San Antonio Spurs won 109-84 on Sunday night, beating the New Orleans Hornets for the second time in a week.

Matt Bonner added 14 points, hitting four of five 3-point attempts, as the Spurs improved their NBA-best win-loss record to 17-3 and matched their best start through 20 games since the 2007-08 season.

Chris Paul had 16 points for the Hornets, who have lost four of five and were blown out from the start. They trailed by 38 and lately look nothing like the team that opened with eight straight wins.

But this win will likely be overshadowed by news Sunday that Hornets owner George Shinn has agreed to sell the club to the NBA. A person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press the deal could be completed within days.

Knicks 116, Raptors 99

At Toronto, Amare Stoudemire had 31 points and a season-high 16 rebounds and Wilson Chandler added 21 points as New York extended its road winning streak to seven.

Landry Fields had 15 points and 10 rebounds and Raymond Felton had 18 points for the Knicks, who matched their longest road winning streak since a seven-game run between Dec. 27, 1994, and Jan. 22, 1995.

Amir Johnson had a season-high 22 points and a a career-high 16 rebounds for Toronto.

Nuggets 108, Grizzlies 107

At Denver, Nene scored 27 points and Arron Afflalo added 25 as Denver held off Memphis to give coach George Karl his 999th NBA victory.

Karl, talking with the Nuggets about an extension through the 2011-12 season, is 999-677 for a winning percentage of .596. Rudy Gay led the Grizzlies with 24 points.

Celtics 100, Nets 75

At Newark, Nate Robinson scored 21 points starting in place of an injured Rajon Rondo, leading Boston to its seventh straight victory.

Rondo was a last-minute scratch because of hamstring and foot injuries.

Jordan Farmar led New Jersey with 16 points.

Suns 125, Wizards 108

At Phoenix, Steve Nash was 8 of 8 from the field, made all four of his foul shots, scored 20 points and had a season-high 17 assists to help Phoenix keep Washington winless on the road this season.

Hakim Warrick had a season-high 26 points for the Suns.

Andray Blatche topped the Wizards, 0-10 on the road, with a season-high 24 points.

Thunder 114, Warriors 109

At Oklahoma, Kevin Durant scored 28 points in his first game back from a knee injury, and Russell Westbrook added 19 points and 13 assists for Oklahoma City.

Stephen Curry scored a season-high 39 points and ignited the Warriors' rally from a 21-point deficit to cut it to three in the final minute.

Oklahoma City made its first 29 free throws before Durant and Westbrook missed three in the final 2? minutes to let Golden State stick around. The Thunder finished 37 for 40 from the foul line.

Pistons 102, Cavaliers 92

At Auburn Hills, Richard Hamilton scored 27 points and Rodney Stuckey added 24 points and 11 assists to help Detroit beat Cleveland.

Both teams came into the game off embarrassing performances. Cleveland lost its last two games by a combined 62 points, including the highly anticipated return of LeBron James. Meanwhile, the Pistons were beaten at home by an Orlando team missing Dwight Howard, Jameer Nelson and two other key players because of the flu.

Antawn Jamison led Cleveland with 22 points.

McDowell upstages Tiger in season finale

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Tiger Woods delivered a vintage moment, dropping an 8-iron from the sky on the final hole Sunday inside 3 feet for what looked to be a sure victory.

Just not this year.

The clutch shots and happy endings belonged to U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell.

McDowell capped off his greatest season with the biggest comeback ever against Woods. He rallied from a four-shot deficit in the Chevron World Challenge, then upstaged Woods at his own tournament.

McDowell holed a 20-foot birdie putt to force a playoff, then beat Woods on the first extra hole with another birdie from a little bit longer.

"They're the kind of putts that you make them, and you can't really believe it afterwards," McDowell said. "They were the stuff of dreams—2010 has been the stuff of dreams. It's been that kind of year."

Woods might have known what to expect, considering how his year has gone.

Without a trophy for the first time since he can remember, Woods appeared ready to embark on a new chapter after a year of personal turmoil and shocking scores. A four-shot lead turned into a two-shot deficit. He rallied to tie McDowell, then watched the U.S. Open champion deliver the winning shots.

It was the first time Woods has lost a tournament when leading by at least three shots going into the final round.

And it was the first time anyone could recall Woods feeling good after a loss.

"It was a great week, even though I didn't win," Woods said. "I'm proud of today, even though I lost."

Woods lost his big lead with a pair of three-putt bogeys, imploded with a double bogey on the par-5 13th to see his one-shot lead turn into a two-shot deficit, then got new life when McDowell made a couple of mistakes down the stretch.

McDowell won with two birdies on the 18th, but he might have won the tournament with a bogey. With a one-shot lead on the par-3 17th, he pulled his 8-iron into grass so high that he took a penalty drop on the 18th tee and pitched over the trees to 7 feet. Woods missed his birdie putt, and McDowell made his putt to stay even with Woods going to the final hole.

It was only the fourth time in 15 years that Woods has lost in a playoff.

But he had reason to look ahead to next year with growing confidence. After making a mess of his life off the course that ended in divorce, and rebuilding his swing for the fourth time, for the first time all year he looked like a No. 1 player.

In contention for the first time, however, old swing flaws crept into his game under the pressure of trying to win. Woods figured he did well to steady himself for the final few holes, and he did everything right except make a 15-foot putt to extend the playoff.

"The way I'm playing right now, yeah, I would like to continue playing," Woods said. "Even though I lost and made countless mistakes in the middle part of the round, it said a lot for me to come back and put my swing back together again."

It was great theater. And for the first time all year, Woods was part of the act.

"He used to appear invincible," McDowell said. "Of course, he's made himself appear more human in the last 12 months. But there's something a bit special about his golf game, and I fully expect that mystique to return as the golf clubs start doing the talking again."

McDowell closed with a 69, while Woods shot a 73 to match him at 16-under 272. They were four shots clear of Paul Casey, who had had a 69 to finish alone in third.

"We had a good battle out there," Woods said.

Woods was shaky early on with the putter to quickly lose his four-shot cushion, but he didn't fall out of the lead until the 13th.

He took his hand off the club on a poor tee shot that went into the left rough, forcing him to lay up. Then came another poor swing, again letting the club fall from his hands, as his wedge sailed over the green. He chipped through the green, chipped back 6 feet long and missed the putt to make double bogey.

McDowell reached the green in two for a birdie, which was a massive three-shot swing. It was the first time Woods trailed in the tournament since the 13th hole of the opening round, a stretch of 54 holes.

Woods probably should have lost the lead earlier.

He holed a tough, downhill putt from 8 feet for par on the sixth to stay one ahead. And on the par-3 eighth, after a flop shop from deep rough sailed 15 feet onto the fringe, Woods again made a key par putt to keep the lead.

Woods was grinding to keep his game together, which was not unusual considering it had been one year and 20 days since he last played in the final round of a tournament with the lead. He never got it back, thanks to the clutch putting from McDowell.

A year ago, McDowell was a last-minute alternate to this tournament when Woods' personal life began to collapse. He finished second and earned enough world ranking points that he eventually got into the U.S. Open, which he won at Pebble Beach.

At a party Saturday night, McDowell asked tournament director Greg McLaughlin if he could at least try to win the tournament. Woods and a four-shot lead used to be a given. Upon seeing McLaughlin after winning, McDowell joking apologized.

It may have ruined a good story for Woods.

It capped a dream season for McDowell, who won $1.2 million and moved up to No. 7 in the world.



Graeme McDowell, of Northern Ireland, holds up the winning trophy after topping the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament in sudden death at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

AP

Jason Werth to Nationals, Padres-Bosox trade set

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Free agent outfielder Jayson Werth and the Washington Nationals reached a megadeal Sunday, a startling $126 million, seven-year contract that seemed to catch most everyone by surprise at baseball's winter meetings.

The ballroom where deals are announced wasn't even set up when agent Scott Boras and Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo walked in. So they stood in a corner while workers prepared the lights, podium microphone and Major League Baseball backdrop.

"I didn't know until a few hours ago," Nationals manager Jim Riggleman admitted. "It all happened very quietly."

Boston and San Diego also took care of business when the Padres agreed to trade star first baseman Adrian Gonzalez to the Red Sox, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity, pending the teams announcing the swap early Monday.

Cliff Lee and Carl Crawford figure to draw lots of attention later this week and another big name is sure to stir discussion, too: George Steinbrenner, on the Hall of Fame ballot for the first time.

The last-place Nationals got Werth, the 31-year-old All-Star right fielder from Philadelphia, just days after slugger Adam Dunn left for the Chicago White Sox.

"To just spend money wildly on people is not the point. What we're going to do is create an atmosphere ... of winning," Werth said on a conference call.

Werth hit .296 with 27 home runs, an NL-leading 46 doubles, 85 RBIs and a career-best 106 runs last season. He parlayed that into a deal astounding for its sheer size—both in terms of dollars and years.

"It's a long time and a lot of money," New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson quipped. "I thought they were trying to reduce the deficit in Washington."

The Red Sox had been one of the teams interested in Werth. They're getting Gonzalez, and hope to reach agreement on a contract extension.

The road from the Orlando airport to the meetings site passes under a Disney World archway that proclaims "Where Dreams Come True" and many clubs aim to get a head start on success in 2011.

As teams and agents started talking, the Hall of Fame's Veterans Committee was set to release its voting results Monday morning. Steinbrenner could become the newest member of the game's Magic Kingdom.

"There's very few owners in the history of baseball that changed baseball as much as he did," Hank Steinbrenner, son of the late New York Yankees owner, recently offered. "He did a lot, but the biggest thing of all was really the fact he brought back the Yankees and that's so critical to baseball."

Already, it's been an active offseason. Dunn, Miguel Tejada, Lance Berkman and Javier Vazquez are among several free agents who have changed teams while Dan Uggla, Omar Infante and Clint Barmes have been traded.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, coming off a losing record after two playoff appearances, have made several moves. They signed free agent infielder Juan Uribe and traded infielder Ryan Theriot to St. Louis for reliever Blake Hawksworth.

"When you go 80-82, you have more time to get things done," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said shortly after landing Sunday at the Orlando airport.

As always, the Yankees figure to be on the prowl at this annual swap shop, especially after losing to the Rangers in the AL championship series. The teams figure to tangle again for Lee, with New York trying to lure the prize pitcher on the free-agent market away from Texas. Lee's decision could come this week.

The Yankees took care of lingering business over the weekend, reaching agreement with Derek Jeter on a $51 million, three-year deal. The All-Star shortstop is expected to be at meetings sometime before they end Thursday for a formal news conference.

Closer Rafael Soriano, sluggers Adrian Beltre, Paul Konerko and Magglio Ordonez and pitchers Carl Pavano, Kevin Millwood and Chris Young are part of the free-agent crop still in play.

The meetings typically produce trades. Last year, the big deal was a three-team swap that moved outfielder Curtis Granderson from Detroit to the Yankees.

Kansas City pitcher Zack Greinke's name has been floated and so have those of the Upton brothers, Tampa Bay outfielder B.J. and Arizona outfielder Justin.

Back on the scene will be Bobby Cox, Joe Torre, Cito Gaston and Lou Piniella. Major League Baseball will pay tribute in person to the four longtime managers who retired this year.

Taylor, Togawa top Delta Air Lines golf tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Jeff Taylor and Yuko Tagawa shot low gross scores of 72 and 80, respectively, to rule the 6th Delta Air Lines Charity Golf Tournament held last Saturday on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Taylor won a $500 worth of gas card provided by IP&E for topping the 40-player field, while Togawa took home $200 gas card for her win in the women's low gross division.

Aside from the low gross winners, the tournament was formatted under a modified Calloway scoring system, which had the event director selecting some of each player's worst holes to determine their handicaps. Again, depending on the event director's preferences, tie-breakers can be based on either a lower gross score or handicap.

Joe Saures was declared the overall winner with a gross card of 87, which was sliced to a net score of 67.8. Toshiyuki Mori took runner-up honors with his gross 74 and net 69.2 Rene Batallones finished in third place with a gross card of 80 and net 70.4. Saurez won a $500 gas card and had his name engraved in the trophy, while Mori and Batallones received $200 and $100 worth of gas cards, respectively.

Meanwhile, Delta Air Lines Guam and Saipan manager, Richard Parsons, was pleased to confirm that they met all of their targeted fundraising goals at the conclusion of the event. Proceeds from the tournament will be used for purchasing new dictionaries for CNMI third graders and the Parade of Books, and for helping Hopwood students attend next year's science fair on Guam.

"We want to thank all of the players and sponsors, especially Shell and IP&E, for the prizes, Microl-Toyota, Bank of Guam, IT&E and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for sponsoring the hole-in-one prizes and thanks to LSG Sky Chef's for providing dinner during the awards banquet. We couldn't have done this without you…the proceeds really do benefit a worthy cause," Parsons said during the awards dinner.

A Toyota Yaris from Microl Toyota served as hole-in-one prize on hole No. 3, while IT&E sponsored the hole-in-one prize of $10,000 on hole No. 7. Bank of Guam put up 1,000,000 Sky Miles on hole No. 3, and Delta teamed up with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for a pair of business elite airline tickets to anywhere in the world. Unfortunately, no one sank a hole-in-one in the fundraising tournament.

Other prizes such as golf bags, bag covers, towels, towels, umbrellas, water park passes, hotel stays, restaurant coupons, and Delta airline tickets to the US, Asia, and Honolulu were also raffled off during the awards dinner.

MALAYSIAN

From Page 28

"He [Kwah] has a good stamina. We had a lot of rallies and I thought I had his numbers, but I didn't, as he still has the energy to return my shots," Loyola said when asked to describe his foe.

Kwah admitted he managed to dominate the competition because of his fitness and footwork advantage over his opponents. The Malaysian netter, who also won the boys U18 singles and doubles in Week 1, added he played a lot of tough and competitive matches against Saipan players.

"The coaches and adults players I played against are quite competitive and strong in doubles play. As for the junior players, Saipan has a strong field for such a small island. I enjoyed playing here," Kwah said.

Joining Kwah in the winners' list in the singles competition in Week 2 were Carl Dela Cruz, Anthony Wenceslao, Vickie Izuka, and Mikayla Lopez.

Dela Cruz took the men's 3.0 singles crown after s straight set victory in the finals against Dylan Ackerman, 6-3, 6-4. Wenceslao claimed the men's 4.0 singles title after a 6-3, 6-3 win in the finals against Guam's David Lai.

In the women's 3.0 singles finals, Izuka labored for three sets before beating junior player Amy Arenovski, 6-3, 4-6, 10-5. Lopez had an easier time in the women's 4.0 singles finals when she swept Lydian Tan, 6-0, 6-2.

In the men's open doubles division, Loyola and Schuler foiled Kwah's bid for a sweep in the two-weekend competition. Loyola and Schuler edged the tandem of Kwah and Race in the finals, 6-2, 6-3.

Other doubles champions were the pairs of Clayton Izuka and Alex Park, Tommy Choi and Amami Sakano, Dong Lacbayo and Richard Asuncion, Shimiko Montgomery and Carrie Schuler, and Mimi Clinard and Mikayla Lopez.

Clayton Izuka and Alex Park played an extended game against the duo of Won Woo Choi and Justin Poon in the men's 2.0 doubles finals before eking out a 6-1, 2-6, 10-4 victory.

In the men's 3.0 doubles championship game, Tommy Choi and Sakano cruised to 6-3, 6-4 win over the father and son tandem of Darnel and Carl Dela Cruz.

The men's 4.0 doubles also ended in two sets with the team of Lacbayo and Asuncion prevailing over Guam's Sam Lai and Saipan's Dong Min Lee, 6-3, 6-3.

The most lopsided finals match in Week 2 came from the women's 3.0 doubles, as Montgomery and Schuler shut out mother and daughter Flor and Emily Jones, 6-0, 6-0.

In the women's 4.0 doubles finals, Lopez and Clinard needed extra minutes to pull off a 7-5, 7-6 (1) triumph over Tan and Sally Lee.

PHILIPPINE

From Page 28

division at 3:42:17.09. Suko Nako's Dennis Dacuyag and Bob Oropesa finished second at 3:43:00.93, while Win or Lose's Raymund Tolentino and Rodrigo Reyes rounded out the Top 3 after timing in at 4:11:06.47.

In the road bike, completing the Top 3 were 656's Florence Antonio and Philip Gauang (4:05:22.56) and 711's Joshua Berger and Fred Camacho (4:05:24.91).

The women's division two-person race had the Ramit's Melody Matson and Amy Sletten and TnT's Tina and Tim Goodwin winning the mountain bike and mixed categories, respectively.

Matson and Sletten clocked in at 4:40:03.47 to beat 610's Andrea Engelhardt and Amanda Kloeppel (5:20:28.34). In the mixed category, the Goodwins posted 4:11:07.41 and edged Van Damnination's Jack and Jackie Van Dam (4:21:51.50).

In the four-team race of the mountain bike division, Team's Giants Roderick Melchor, Nelson Pagaduan, Silvano Tataro, and John Arceo prevailed over six other foursome after logging 4:13:31.66.

The Ilocano Pride's Ric Antonio, Edgar Abalos, Rex Vea, and James Abuy finished second with a time of 4:19:04.38, while Dream Team's Noel Ignacio Ramon Payong, Nomer Macalinao, and Patrick Gile submitted 4:20:36.97 to place third.

In the road bike division, John Jenkins, Benny Bagasala, Ronald Lanuza and Bernard Laborce of Jenkins Team recorded 4:07:16.72 to finish ahead of D Great 4J's John Ricafort, Joey Lucido, Jess Conde, and John Dacanay (4:46:26.75).

The ladies division (road bike category) first place went to Japan's Tsugumi Amamo, Miho Ohata, Ryoko Yoshida, and Asako Koyama, who combined for 6:06:00.66.

Over 170 riders competed in the fourth edition of the annual race that lured riders from Guam, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Russia.

VOLLEYBALL

From Page 28

in a sense, the guest coaches are reaffirming what many of the local coaches are teaching.

Wade and his crew held similar sessions on Guam during their visit. A Saipan teacher who knew coach Sheperd invited the group of coaches to hold one of their youth clinics here on Saipan since they are already in the area.

This was Wade and company's first trip to the CNMI. They said they observed a lot of speed and athleticism from both male and female strikers in the Commonwealth.

"At the surface, one would think that NCAA Division 1 volleyball is all about height, but speed, jumping ability, and playing smart on the court can neutralize such attributes… height is not really a limiting factor," Wade said.

Wade also encouraged the students to take on a pro-active approach if they want to excel in college sports. He told them to go ahead and contact coaches and formulate their own research about potential schools and determine which ones best suit them depending on a area of study, geography or the type of sports offered. He added that it is also a good idea to send video footage if possible because coaches really do take a look at those things.

ARMATECH

From Page 28

At the start of the second half, Armatech found some offense from Martin Mareno, who tallied seven points in the third quarter. However, Jhem's still established an eight-point lead, 61-53, heading into the fourth quarter.

After trailing in the first three quarters, Armatech finally outgunned Jhem's in the fourth period, 28-17, to grab the win. Armatech converted four free throws in the clutch compared to Jhem's three to seal the victory.

In the first game, Top 45 remained unbeaten in three games after crushing Exclusive, 83-43.

Top 45's came out in true form once again and totally dominated Exclusive . It wasted no time containing Exclusive to just eight points to amass an early double-digit lead, 19-8, after the first 10 minutes of play. Bruce Berline got it going for Top 45, firing six points in the opening quarter.

Both teams virtually traded baskets in the second period. Tony Luzama led Top 45 with six points in that quarter to keep his team in front at halftime, 35-22.

Then Luzama and Berline combined for 17 points in the third quarter, as Top 45 began to pull away, limiting Exclusive to 12 points.

Things turned from bad to worse for Exclusive in the fourth quarter, as it only mustered nine points against Top 45's 40. Exclusive absorbed its fourth loss in as many games.

Meanwhile, the Memorial Cup continues tonight with a 45A division game between the Undertakers (1-1) and Exclusive at 6:30pm, followed by a 40A division battle featuring Islander Rent A Car (2-0) and Armatech at 8pm.

First Game

Top 45 83 – Luzama 26, J. Palacios 19, Berline 15, Takai 9, F. Palacios 8, Cosino 4, Bicera 2.

Exclusive 43 - Cepeda 16, Alegre 12, Alesandro 7, Miguel 4, Mallari 2.

Scoring by quarters : 19-8, 35-22, 61-34, 83-43.

Second Game

Armatech 81 – Moreno 25, Trajano 11, Ebuen 10, Canedo 9, Tobias 7, Mateo 6, Arenas 5, Bernardo 4, Bello 2, Malasarte 2.

Jhem's Restaurant 78 – Banatasa 32, Verano 14, Bugay 10, Yalung 10, Poquiz 8.

Scoring by quarters: 17-19, 37-41, 53-61, 81-78.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	16	4	.800	–
New York	12	9	.571	4 1/2
Toronto	8	12	.400	8
Philadelphia	6	14	.300	10
New Jersey	6	15	.286	10 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	15	5	.750	–
Atlanta	13	8	.619	2Ω
Miami	13	8	.619	2Ω
Charlotte	7	13	.350	8
Washington	6	13	.316	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	10	8	.556	–
Indiana	9	9	.500	1
Milwaukee	7	12	.368	3 1/2
Cleveland	7	13	.350	4
Detroit	7	14	.333	4 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	17	3	.850	–
Dallas	16	4	.800	1
New Orleans	13	7	.650	4
Memphis	8	13	.381	9 1/2
Houston	7	13	.350	10

Northwest Division

Utah	15	6	.714	–
Denver	13	6	.684	1
Oklahoma City	14	7	.667	1
Portland	9	11	.450	5 1/2
Minnesota	5	15	.250	9 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	14	6	.700	–
Phoenix	11	9	.550	3
Golden State	8	12	.400	6
Sacramento	4	14	.222	9
L.A. Clippers	4	17	.190	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 100, New Jersey 75
New York 116, Toronto 99
Detroit 102, Cleveland 92
Oklahoma City 114, Golden State 109
San Antonio 109, New Orleans 84
Denver 108, Memphis 107
Phoenix 125, Washington 108
Portland 100, L.A. Clippers 91

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	2	0	.818	334	266
N.Y. Jets	9	2	0	.818	264	187
Miami	6	6	0	.500	215	238
Buffalo	2	10	0	.167	243	333

South

Jacksonville	7	5	0	.583	257	300
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	317	290
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321
Tennessee	5	7	0	.417	263	235

North

Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	267	191
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	260	201

West

Kansas City	8	4	0	.667	295	237
Oakland	6	6	0	.500	283	269
San Diego	6	6	0	.500	323	253
Denver	3	9	0	.250	256	333

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	308	247
Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	344	281
Washington	5	7	0	.417	222	293
Dallas	4	8	0	.333	294	336

South

Atlanta	10	2	0	.833	304	233
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	299	227
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	243	251
Carolina	1	11	0	.083	154	307

North

Chicago	9	3	0	.750	246	192
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	303	182
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	227	253
Detroit	2	10	0	.167	278	306

West

Seattle	6	6	0	.500	240	289
St. Louis	6	6	0	.500	232	237
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	203	259
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	200	338

Yesterday's Games

Green Bay 34, San Francisco 16
Kansas City 10, Denver 6
Minnesota 38, Buffalo 14
Jacksonville 17, Tennessee 6
Cleveland 13, Miami 10
Chicago 24, Detroit 20
N.Y. Giants 31, Washington 7
New Orleans 34, Cincinnati 30
Oakland 28, San Diego 13
Seattle 31, Carolina 14
St. Louis 19, Arizona 6
Atlanta 28, Tampa Bay 24
Dallas 38, Indianapolis 35, OT
Pittsburgh 13, Baltimore 10

CHEVRON WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP)óScores Saturday from the Chevron World Challenge at the par-72, 7,052-yard Sherwood Country Club course:

Third Round

Tiger Woods	65-66-68	199
Graeme McDowell	66-69-68	203
Paul Casey	73-65-69	207
Hunter Mahan	72-67-70	209
Sean O'Hair	72-67-70	209
Luke Donald	70-66-73	209
Rory McIlroy	66-70-73	209
Ian Poulter	72-67-71	210
Nick Watney	72-67-71	210
Zach Johnson	75-67-70	212
Stewart Cink	69-75-68	212
Jim Furyk	72-73-71	216
Steve Stricker	72-76-70	218
Bubba Watson	76-69-74	219
Anthony Kim	79-66-74	219
Matt Kuchar	75-71-74	220
Camilo Villegas	70-75-76	221
Dustin Johnson	69-72-80	221

ASSOCIATED PRIESS

4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race

Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Korean and eventual Hell of Marianas top finisher Joon Yong Seo leads the main peloton heading to Koblerville.

Joon Yong Seo poses for a photo after winning the 100-kilometer race.



Bikers chat at the starting line at the PIC southern parking lot while waiting for the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race to kick off.



Ben Wood leads the fifth batch of riders going up to Papago.



Russia's Konstantin Fast heads up to Bird Island Lookout.



Three riders try to catch up with the leaders.



Riders slow down as they head to Bird Island Lookout.



Saipan's Lewie Tenorio poses for the camera.



The lead pack climbs up to Papago.



Riders sprint to the finish line.



Saipan Tribune
Sports



Malaysian jr. netter sweeps Saipan foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Malaysia's Ji Kent Kwah demolished Saipan players en route to a title win in the co-ed open singles division of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

The co-ed open singles crown was a perfect send-off gift for the 16-year-old Kwah, as he will be leaving Saipan early morning today after staying here for more than two weeks.

Kwah started his title bid in the centerpiece co-ed open singles with a 6-2, 6-0 whipping of Dong Min Lee to advance to the semifinals. In the semis, the Malaysian junior tennis player was pitted against CNMI coach and tournament second seed Jeff Race last Saturday and nailed another straight set win, 6-1, 6-0, to make it to the finals.

In the championship game, Kwah also needed only two sets to thwart another tennis coach—Peter Loyola—last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis court. Kwah won the first set by three points, 6-3, and then completed the sweep with a 6-4 triumph in the second set. Loyola set a title tiff against Kwah after downing Kirk Schuler in the other semis pairing, 5-7, 1-0 (retired).

See MALAYSIAN on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Kent Kwah goes for a smash during a warm-up for his semis game against Jeff Race in the co-ed open singles division of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the AMP tennis courts.

Philippine Express, 613 rule relay races in 'Hell'



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
613's Bob Ferrer lets go of his bike's handlebars, as he heads to the finish line of last Saturday's 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Express and 613 emerged as the top finishers in the relay division of last Saturday's 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

The Philippine Express composed of Aldrin Sta. Ana and Willy Barbo was the first overall finisher in the relay and road bike division, completing the 100-kilometer event in three hours, 30 minutes, and 58.22 seconds.

Gary Bandoja and Bob Ferrer raced for 613 and together they posted the second overall fastest time in relay and best time in the mountain bike

See PHILIPPINE on Page 26

Armatech slips past Jhem's; Top 45 wins



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Armatech, seen here posing for a group photo, overcame an eight-point fourth quarter deficit to defeat Jhem's Restaurant, 81-78, in last Saturday's 40A MBFNMI Memorial Cup game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Armatech had on a fourth-quarter rally against Jhem's Restaurant to pull off an 81-78 win during their 40A division of the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win improved Armatech's record to 3-1, while the loss dropped Jhem's to a 1-3 mark.

Toto Banatasa paced Jhem's with six points in the opening period to help build a one-basket edge, 19-17.

Then Banatasa added 10 more markers in the second period, as Jhem's made it a four-point game at the break , 41-37. Armatech stayed in the match in the first half behind the six points of Leo Canedo.

See ARMATECH on Page 26

Volleyball clinic draws 80 students

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



About 80 Saipan students in the 12 to 17 age group participated in a free volleyball clinic conducted by University of Hawaii head coach Charlie Wade, Guam National Team coach Chris Sheperd, and former UH player and current school coach Ashley Watanabe yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The clinic focused primarily on



WALTER SUTHERLAND
Front row from left, University of Hawaii head volleyball coach Charlie Wade and Guam National Team coach Chris Sheperd, and former UH player Ashley Watanabe, third row left, pose for a group photo with participants of the youth volleyball clinic yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

technical aspects of the game such as passing, setting, jumping, striking and defensive drills.

"We had a really good turnout, I think the kids had a lot of fun and we got to touch on a lot of things during our brief time together," Wade said.

" I learned how to use pace running to improve my approach when going for a dig and I also liked slamming the ball during the spiking drills," Grace Christian Academy senior Brandon Chargualaf said.

Wade added that the clinic served as good exposure for entry level players who are just now learning the game. It is also good for some of the more advanced players because

See VOLLEYBALL on Page 26